

GADGETS

THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST TECH LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

Nikon D5500



Preserving
Your Vacation
Memories

Sirene Sutton
with the Honda
Click 125i



The Roadtrip Issue

PHP 150



9 770118 014206
ISSN 0118-0142

www.gadgets magazine.com.ph

APR 2015 • VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 8

REVIEWED:

Nikon D5500 | Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 Pro | Seagate Backup Plus Desktop Drive
Canon E460 | D-Link AC1900 | Cherry Mobile One | CamelBak M.U.L.E. NV

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The quintessential gadgets girl who loves all things Mac, red, and blingy. She's also recently taken a liking to Windows phones. What's in her bag? Lots of wires and cords, several external drives, and power banks. Hide your flash drives, though, they disappear around her.
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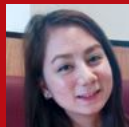
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Cla at 23 is still figuring out how to be an adult. Her everyday life consists of toy hunting, geeking-out, bookstores, art shops, and Game of Thrones—all while trying to hide her Wonder Woman suit.
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LENG DESUASIDO
GRAPHIC ARTIST

A foolish girl guided by her passions, a little bit of planning, laughter, and yarns.
@lengdesuasido / @lengdrawsobjects



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CONTRIBUTOR

You'll never find Jose without a controller in his hand—in fact, the WASD keys on his keyboard have been worn out over the years. Aside from games, he also religiously follows several sports, especially soccer, and always has a joke ready to lighten any mood and put a smile on someone's face.
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Summer is here, and much like the majority of the urban population, we decided that the best way to escape the sweltering heat is to hit the road. However, while many will be headed north, to the Cordilleras, or south to the beaches of Batangas, or even Visayas, we decided to skip the beaten path, and head east, to Tanay, Rizal. While not necessarily the first on the list of travel destinations, Tanay is a beautiful municipality worth exploring. From winding roads, great eats, and relaxing getaways, there's so much to see, all just two hours away from Quezon City. Our cover echoes that same desire to explore. The Honda Click 125i is the refinement of the modern scooter, and perfect for when you want to get out there and just ride. Go out and explore some place new this season!



PHOTOGRAPHY BY Dookie Ducay • ART DIRECTION BY Benedict Asal
HAIR AND MAKE UP BY Patricia Aquino • STYLING BY Cla Gregorio
CROPPED TOP AND CREPE SKIRT BY Topshop
DROP EARRINGS BY Collective.com, MULTI-PLATED NECKLACE BY Something Borrowed, STRIPE BANGLE BY Jean & Rosz, all available at Zalora
MODEL: Sirene Sutton of TITAN Premiere Models



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GADGETS Magazine is published monthly by **Great Minds Media Incorporated**. Address all correspondence to **Unit 801-802, The One Executive Office Bldg., #5 West Avenue., 1104 Quezon City**. Our telephone number is: **288-8588**. Our website is: **www.gadgets magazine.com.ph**. Our email address is: **editors@gadgets magazine.com.ph**

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Photos may vary from actual vehicle.

ASC Reference Code S041P011315S



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Biostar H81MHP2 ▶

Motherboard

The motherboard may be one of the most overlooked PC components there is, but getting a quality one is essential to having a rig that will last for years. The Biostar H81MHP2 has everything you'd expect from a mainboard—an LGA 1150 socket for an Intel Core i7, i5, i3, Pentium, or Celeron processor; PCIe, PCIe 2.0 x 1, and PCIe 2.0 x 16 slots; two DDR3 slots supporting up to 8GB RAM each; USB 3.0 and 2.0 ports; and legacy and power connectors—plus various other knickknacks lengthening its lifespan. Moisture-proof PCB, electrostatic discharge protection, overvoltage, current, and heat protection, and a low Rds(on) MOSFET are all standard, guaranteeing you a mobo that will stand the test of time.



◀ Biostar Hi-Fi A70U3P

Motherboard

Based on Biostar's Puro Hi-Fi audio technology, the Hi-Fi A70U3P is a mainboard that will turn your plain old PC into a multimedia and entertainment powerhouse. It features your usual mainstays such as PCIe 2.0 and 3.0 slots; FM2+ AMD multi-core CPU/APU socket; two DDR3 DIMM slots supporting up to 16GB RAM sticks each; numerous power connectors; a clear CMOS header; two USB 2.0 and two USB 3.0 ports; and various other legacy ports for your older peripherals. These, coupled with technologies such as Smart EAR, Hi-Fi Ground, Hi-Fi Power, Hi-Fi Amp, and circuitry that minimizes signal noise, ensure you'll get professional-quality audio to go along with your videos, games, and that earworm album you just can't seem to pause.



LG CordZero Handstick ►

Vacuum Cleaner

The war against dirt is a never-ending one. In order to keep our homes habitable, we have to constantly fight to keep dust and grime at bay. While the ever-faithful vacuum cleaner is a trusted ally in this battle, it's not without its shortcomings. The cord, in particular, is a hazard that is always present when we have to clean up. LG has taken this problem and severed all ties with the power cord, thanks to the CordZero system. The CordZero Handstick is powered by an internal, rechargeable power pack that has enough juice for 60 minutes of cleaning in regular mode, of 40 minutes in power mode, and is convertible from the standard stick-type vacuum, to a smaller, handier handheld cleaner. Bid the hassle of tangled cords goodbye with the LG CordZero Handstick.



◄ Starmobile Play Club

Smartphone

Still using a non-smartphone and want your first taste of a pocket rocket? Give the Starmobile Play Club a go. This dual-SIM Android KitKat device touts a 1.0GHz dual-core MediaTek processor paired with a Mali 400 GPU, 512MB RAM, 4GB expandable storage, 4-inch capacitive touchscreen, 5MP rear and VGA front snappers, and a 1400mAh battery—very decent hardware that ensures an experience leaps and bounds ahead of basic phones. It also comes with a free colored back cover and rigid plastic case out of the box for a livelier and safer looking device. These, combined with intuitive features and a very low price point, ensure migrators will only regret why they didn't make the jump sooner.

PHP 2,690



◀ **WD Re+** Hard Disk Drive

Why should the drive containing data you rarely touch—but can't afford to delete—use up as much power as your regular storage? The engineers over at WD have been asking themselves the same question and they've come up with the WD Re+ as the answer. It features the lowest power consumption-to-storage ratio of 6 watts per 6TB, so the total cost of ownership needn't be higher than it should be. Other archiving features of the Re+, including vibration protection, dual actuators, multi-axis shock sensor, NoTouch ramp load, and dynamic fly height technology, ensure the drive can meet its 550TB per year workload and 1.2-million hours mean time to failure ratings.

WD Green ▶ Hard Disk Drive

Never has the phrase "bigger is better" stood truer than with hard disk drives. The WD Green not only features humungous storage space up to 6TB large, but it also packs a host of features ensuring data security and drive longevity. WD's GreenPower technology regulates the drive's power consumption and platter rotation, leading to reduced heat, noise, and vibration. Further, IntelliSeek, Dual Stage Actuator, and NoTouch ramp load technologies guarantee that you can access your data quickly and safely for performance you might mistake for an SSD. All these in a package that will outlast the rest of your PC's components. It's the absolute perfect storage buddy for multimedia aficionados and hoarders alike.

PHP 6,995 (2TB)
PHP 8,850 (3TB)
PHP 10,950 (4TB)
PHP 11,550 (5TB)
PHP 13,400 (6TB)





▲ Thecus N4310

Network-attached Storage

Who doesn't love having terabytes of data within easy access? Technology's still quite a ways from amassing tons of TBs in a single drive, however, so we have to improvise a bit. Enter the Thecus N4310: a hefty NAS with four SATA hard drive bays and two USB 3.0 ports. It offers a read and write speed of 100MB/s and 75MB/s respectively, all the while being energy efficient with its built-in 1.0GHz single-core processor and 1GB RAM. For your peace of mind, the N4310 arrives with data security features such as power redundancy, self-RAID creation, and AES data encryption; and for your convenience, it has a built-in Plex media server so you can enjoy your content anytime on any device.



◀ Asus Fonepad 8

Tablet

You want the functionality of a smartphone with the screen size dedicated to on-the-go productivity? The Asus Fonepad 8 might be the tool for you. This dual micro SIM device is equipped with the powerful yet energy-efficient 64-bit Intel Atom Z3530 quad-core processor racing at 1.33GHz paired with 2GB of RAM so it can keep up with your daily activities. On board is 16GB of expandable storage with 5GB of lifetime Asus WebStorage space for all your files, including photos from the 2MP and 5MP cameras. The Fonepad 8 runs Android 4.4 overlaid with Asus' ZenUI, to increase functionality and fluidity. All that magic underneath the hood is seen through a beautiful 8-inch 1280x800 IPS screen with 10 touch points. Hey, if you're going tablet, you might as well go big, and you might as well get a sure-fire performer like this one.

PHP 11,995



◀ **Gionee Elife S5.1** Smartphone

Gionee has been making waves in the market with phones that offer great features at price points that won't break the bank. They're poised to do it again with the latest phone in their lineup, the Elife S5.1. This phone has a beautiful 4.8-inch AMOLED display, in a pleasantly slim 5.1mm body. It's more than just a pretty face, though. Under that pretty exterior is the Mediatek MT6592 chipset, an octa-core 1.7GHz, Cortex-A7 processor, and 1GB of RAM. It comes with 16GB of internal memory for all your music, videos, and photos, and has an 8MP main camera with auto-focus so you never miss a moment. It even has a 5MP front camera for the all-important selfie. The S5.1 runs Android 4.4.2 KitKat, and has a 2050mAh battery for all-day use.

MSI GT80 Titan ▶ Laptop

If you're the kind of gamer that just plays the odd game of *Sims* every once in a while, move along. This laptop isn't for you. The MSI GT80 Titan is a beast. There's just no other word for it. Packing up to a 5th Gen Intel Core i7 processor, a whopping 32GB of DDR3L RAM, and the blisteringly fast GeForce GTX 980M video card with 16GB of GDDR5 VRAM, this dedicated gaming laptop has 5 USB 3.0 ports for all our gaming peripherals, and a massive 8-cell battery so you'll have to quit before it does. The kicker is that it comes with a SteelSeries mechanical keyboard with Cherry MX switches built in. Yes, now you can have all the clicky-clacky goodness of a mechanical keyboard right into your gaming laptop. It also features a massive 18.4-inch screen, and Cooler Boost quiet cooling technology, so you can sneak up on unsuspecting noobs in absolute silence.



Rado Esenza Ceramic Touch ► Wristwatch

Elegance and technology come together in the Rado Esenza Ceramic touch collection. Setting the time on this crownless timepiece is as simple as touching the bezel, then running your finger up or down one of the sides. It features groundbreaking technology, peerless design, and the most emotional of human senses to come up with a watch that is as much a statement as it is a timepiece. The watch comes in six different models, three each in black and white, and is made of high-tech, extremely scratch-resistant ceramic, and Rado's signature monobloc case.



◀ Samsung Galaxy S6 Edge Smartphone

It has arrived. The latest device from Korean smartphone giant Samsung has finally been announced. The Samsung Galaxy S6 is a monster of a phone. With a huge, gorgeous 5.1-inch, curved edge, AMOLED screen, it's unlike anything we've seen from any other smartphone manufacturer. Boasting premium metal and Gorilla Glass 4 construction, the Exynos 7420 Chipset, and quad-core, 1.5GHz, and 2.1GHz quad-core processors, with 3GB of RAM, it's not going to back down from any apps you can throw at it. A 16-megapixel main camera gives you great photos, and 32 or 64GB of storage means you're not going to run out of space for your memories.

PHP 41,990 (32GB)
PHP 47,990 (64GB)



◀ **CamelBak StoAway 3.0L** Hydration System

Planning a hike to the Himalayas? Stay hydrated, minus the bulk, with CamelBak's StoAway 2.0L water reservoir. This hydration pack features a fully insulated reservoir chamber that keeps the temperature of your drink, whatever the season is. It is lightweight and comes with an easy to clean wide mouth opening, quick zip reservoir for easy loading, and a 4mm insulated tube cover and bite valve cover. There ain't no mountain high enough with the CamelBak StoAway.

PHP 2,150

CamelBak Chute .75L ▶ Water Bottle

Whether you're going to be at your desk all day, or are about to summit a mountain, the one thing you need is hydration. Chug liquid anywhere, anytime, with the handy CamelBak Chute .75L water bottle. This leak-proof container comes with an ergonomic high-flow spout that is angled and contoured for an efficient drink. Keeping the spout dirt-free is a tethered cap that easily twists off in just half a turn and snaps snugly into the handle so it doesn't get in the way when you take a chug. It is available in colors charcoal, rust, indigo, orchid, lime, and bluegrass.

PHP 680



CamelBak eddy Stainless Insulated ▶

Water Bottle

How convenient is it to have a water bottle that keeps your liquid cold until the end of the day, can be carried with one finger, and opened without having to use two hands? The CamelBak eddy Stainless Insulated .5L water bottle gives you the privilege of all that in the price of one. This durable stainless steel bottle is built with double-wall vacuum insulation that keeps your drinks' temperature as it is for hours. It has a flip-to-open bite valve and an easy-carry one-finger loop making it ideal for people who are always on the go.

PHP 1,400



◀ Camelbak M.U.L.E NV Hydration Backpack

Like its namesake pack animal, the Camelback M.U.L.E NV will carry all your gear so you can safely ascend slopes and blast down trails without having to worry about your drink. You can load even the largest items in its 12L backpack compartment, and smaller trinkets in the front panel pockets. It's made from 70D/210D diamond ripstop nylon and 70D/140D block dobby nylon ensuring that it won't get ripped by the branches and rocks you'll be facing. And if the thirst for hydration overwhelms your thirst for adventure, the M.U.L.E NV comes with a 3L water reservoir so you can top up and keep going.

PHP 5,630



◀ **Seagate Backup Plus** External Desktop Hard Drive

File backups are a great idea, and something most of us forget to do until it is too late. Seagate, a trusted brand in digital storage, has just the answer in the Backup Plus desktop drive. With up to 5TB of storage, the Backup Plus Drive comes with bundled software that backs up your desktop, smartphone, Facebook, and Flickr accounts, in case an ill wind blows, and gremlins take over your machine. Automated, scheduled backups, and real-time updating mean you'll never lose a byte of data ever again, and USB 3.0 connectivity means your backups happen fast, right in the background.

Microsoft Lumia 435 ▶ Smartphone

Microsoft's most affordable Windows Phone yet, the Lumia 435 brings to the table a Windows Phone experience with respectable specs and a pocket-friendly price tag. Under the hood of this dual SIM smartphone is a dual-core Snapdragon 200 processor humming along at 1.2GHz, 1GB RAM, 8GB of flash storage expandable to 128GB through a microSD card, 2MP main and VGA front cameras, and Wi-Fi and HSPA data connectivity. It also runs the latest Lumia Denim update for faster camera speeds, better imaging apps, and an overall buttery experience despite the modest innards. The 435 is definitely a steady first rung to newcomers to the Windows ecosystem.

PHP 4,290





Apple MacBook ▲

Laptop

Not an Air. Not a Pro. Apple's newest laptop will be known only as the new MacBook. Coming in at a wafer-thin 13.1mm and tipping the scales at less than 1kg, it's even thinner than the already svelte MacBook Air by 24 percent. Inside the clamshell is a 12-inch edge-to-edge Retina display with a 2304x1440 resolution and 16:10 aspect ratio for immersive and lifelike visuals; and a newly-designed full-size keyboard with enough clack for a gratifying, tactile type. Right-clicks were thrown completely out the window as the new MacBook arrives with Force Touch: an intuitive way of using the trackpad to select items and input commands. Finally, it comes with the fresh, new USB-C, the single answer for charging, HDMI, and data transfer requirements. All these come in a solid package with colors space gray, silver, and gold.



◀ Nikon AW1

Mirrorless Interchangeable Lens Camera

There are cameras that take great photos, and there are cameras that can take a beating. Then there's the Nikon AW1, a waterproof, shockproof, and freezeproof snapper that will outlast even its owner in the harshest conditions. At its core is a 14MP 13.2mm x 8.8mm C-format sensor matched with a Hybrid TTL AF system and Expeed 3A image processor for clear and in-focus snaps even in unwieldy environments. An ISO range of 160 to 6400 and a manual pop-up flash also enables you to clinch night time shots with minimal noise. With the A1 in tow, you have an all-around performer able to withstand 2-meter falls, 15-meter underwater dives, and below-freezing mountain tops.



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Canon E460

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

Printers are a necessity, even in today's mostly digital workplace. While it is a great idea to keep hard copies down to a minimum, there are times you just need a signature, or a quick glance at some numbers, and for that, a printer just can't be beat. We've come a long way from noisy dot matrix printers and ribbons, and now, we have printers that fill that role and more. One such device is Canon's E460, a multi-function inkjet printer that prints, scans, and copies—three of the things for which a great printer is absolutely necessary.

DESIGN ★★★★★

Though the device itself takes the place of three separate office devices, it has a remarkably small footprint. At 426mm wide, 306mm deep, and 145mm high, it should fit in smaller spaces, or sit happily on your desk without hogging too much of your workspace. It's rather plain, which works for us. Apart from a few buttons and indicator lights on the left side of the unit, controls and buttons are quite sparse. Build quality is solid, and typical of Canon's other Pixma printers. They all feel sturdy, and seem like they could very easily handle an office accident every now and again. The power brick is reasonably-sized, and has a cord long enough to allow you to store the main power unit off to one side, or under a desk.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The Pixma E460 is no one trick pony. While it does have the footprint of a single-function device, it brings a lot more to the party. Need a digital copy of some hard documents lying around? This guy has you covered with a flatbed scanner that can scan papers up to A4 in size, both in color and monochrome, with a selectable resolution of 19,200dpi. Need a document printed? Sure. You can print up to A4-sized documents with no sweat. If you just need duplicates, the E460 is glad to oblige. Just pop the document onto the scanner, hit copy, and give it a minute.

As for connectivity, apart from the usual USB 2.0 connection, it also supports wireless printing as either an access point of its own, or networked wirelessly. It also gives you Google Cloud Print support, as well as PictBridge, and Pixma Cloud Link, though some configuration is required.

As for the business end of the printer, 1,280 nozzles, each capable of 2pL drops of ink give you a maximum print resolution of 4,800 x 600 dpi, which is easily more than enough for practically anything your average office needs.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

As a magazine, we go through a lot of paper on a regular basis. Photos have to be checked, articles printed and proofed, and lots of scanning. The Canon E460 was a perfect fit here. Setup couldn't be easier. All you really have to do is plug the power cable in, do the same for the USB cable, install the cartridges, and you're set. Drivers were easily found online, and within ten minutes of tearing into the box.

Printing was dead easy, as expected. We loaded up the paper tray with about fifty sheets of paper, and got to testing. The results we got were about at par with the advertised numbers. On the default printer settings, colored prints come out at about 4 pages per minute, while black and white pages come at a rate of about 8ppm. On regular 70 GSM paper, the prints turned out great. There was no feathering, bleeding, or showing through the back, even with pages that were covered with ink. Print accuracy was spot-on as well. There were no gaps in the images or letters, so even fine text was visible with no trouble at all. Speed, color reproduction, and print accuracy were all there with copies and scans. In more than one instance, I mistook a copied document for the original, so that speaks a lot about the device's clarity.

One problem we did have with the printer was wireless connectivity. The test unit was delivered

SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: 426 x 306 x 145mm
Weight: 3kg
Maximum Printing Resolution: 4800 (horizontal)*1 x 600 (vertical) dpi
Printable Width Bordered: Up to 203.2mm (8-inch)
Paper Size: A4, A5, B5, Letter, Legal, 4 x 6", 5 x 7", Envelopes (DL, COM10), Custom Size (width 101.6 - 215.9mm, length 152.4 - 676mm)
Scanner Type: Flatbed
Scanning Method: CIS (Contact Image Sensor)
Optical Resolution: 600 x 2400dpi
Selectable Resolution: 25-19200dpi
Scanning Bit Depth (Input / Output) Grayscale: 16 bits / 8 bits
Color: 48 bits / 24 bits (RGB each 16 bits / 8 bits)

What's Hot:

- Small footprint
- Has all the functions you could need from a printer
- Great print performance

What's Not:

- Wireless functions were difficult to get to work

in a plain box, with none of the literature, so we didn't really have a lot to work with on the ground. Add to this the fact that the device has no screen on which to view settings, and there were moments we were left staring at blinking indicator lights, wondering just what was going on. This is compounded by the fact that the device does have two wireless modes: as an access point, and connected to a wireless network. Including those features are great, but this isn't the friendliest printer on which to try and make them work.

VALUE ★★★★★

The Canon E460 is a great tool, with a whole suite of functions that many offices and businesses need. While it doesn't necessarily have the horsepower to handle excessively large volumes of prints, cartridges are not all that expensive. Though we did have a few problems with the higher functions involving wireless networking, instructions included in the package should make the whole process easier. On the whole though, and particularly if you are a small enough group whose operations needn't hinge on wireless connectivity for your printers, this should fit the bill perfectly.

BOTTOMLINE

Are you a small business that needs great quality prints, and a scanner/copier all together? Here's your next purchase.

Cherry Mobile One

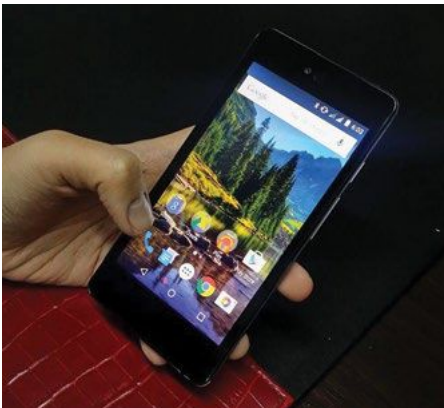
Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

Last month saw the arrival of the Android One project here in the Philippines. Since the launch, we have managed to get our hands on another manufacturer's take on the project, in the form of the Cherry Mobile One. It's the same basic idea: A solid recipe for a smartphone that Google can push updates to for years. Let's see how Cherry did it.

DESIGN ★★★★★

Android One phones are essentially the same under the hood, so outside is where the individual manufacturers can make changes. The Cherry Mobile One has the same basic Android One shape, but with a smooth, silver back case. There is only the slightest bit of branding on the device, with "Cherry Mobile" printed on the center of the back, and "Android One" near the bottom edge. At the top of the rear, off to the left is the main camera and LED flash, and at same spot at the bottom, you'll find the speaker grille.

The shape, which is pleasantly curvy around the back edges, fits the hand well, though might be a little slippery when handled with damp hands. Much like practically all of Cherry Mobile's recent offerings, the One is solid. Though it's priced squarely in budget territory, it doesn't feel cheap in the least. The back case, though plastic, is resistant to the creaking or



SPECIFICATIONS:

Screen: 4.5-inch IPS display
Resolution: 854 x 480 ppi
Processor: 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582 processor
Memory: 1GB RAM; 8GB internal storage (with free 8GB memory card) supports microSD card up to 32GB
Camera: 5MP rear camera with LED flash; 2MP front camera
Operating System: Android 5.1 Lollipop
Connectivity: Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS; Dual-SIM; HSPA+
Battery: 1700mAh battery

What's Hot:

- Android updates for at least two years
- Superb value
- The very heart of the project is great

What's Not:

- Battery life isn't the best out there
- Screen resolution is a little low

groaning that is present in some devices in this price range, and the front of the phone is smooth, beautiful glass. Save for a front snapper and a camera, the front of the phone is bare, with just the screen and a large, though not massive, bezel surrounding it. A headphone jack at the top and microUSB port at the bottom round the device off nicely.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The whole point of the Android One project is to come up with phones that are both affordable and practical. The One, like other Android One phones, has a 4.5-inch IPS display, and while it's not the absolute sharpest display in the market, with a resolution of 854x450 pixels, it is more than enough to do the job. The heart of the phone is a 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582 processor with 1GB of RAM. You might not be breaking land speed records with this phone, but compared with many of the other devices at the same price point, this phone is much closer to the top of the bracket. It comes with 8GB of storage, but comes with an additional 8GB thanks to a microSD card, and if you need more, it supports microSD cards up to 32GB large.

The main camera on the One is a 5MP deal; not exactly top-spec, but more than enough to take snapshots, or catch that creative spark that people might have inside them. It also has a front-facing 2MP camera for video calls. The point of the Android One is to connect the previously unconnected in a way that actually allows them to accomplish more. As such, Google has seen it fit to bake into the phone all the usual wireless options, from HSPA+, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, all the way to GPS, and dual-SIM connectivity which is so important here and in other developing markets. All this is kept running with a small, but capable 1700mAh battery. It's a pretty reasonable spec sheet, and one a lot of people can get behind.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

I said this about the previous Android One device we reviewed, and the same holds true for this: if you purchase this expecting a flagship device, you might be in for a rough time. If, however, you get this for the role it was intended, that is a "pure" Android experience, with the features to get you started on the path to the wonderful world of smartphones, then you're in business.

Apart from guaranteed updates from the big G itself, Google's control over the smartphone architecture means that the software is guaranteed to play nice with the hardware, giving you smoother performance than you'd get from other smartphones with better specifications, and a larger price tag.

Having tried another One phone prior, we had an idea as to what we were getting into.



The performance of the One is smooth, consistent, and overall very pleasant. Even with 1GB of RAM, apps manage to launch quickly, even with a bunch of them running in the background. The UI, which is stock Lollipop, is true to Google's material design ethos, and looks great, even on a smaller screen such as the one we have here. It does have a hint of the same pixelation reported in other Android One phones, though unless you are coming from another device with significantly greater DPI, you're unlikely to really mind.

Of special note is the camera on the device. While it's only a 5MP sensor, software optimization seems to make the most of the hardware. Colors appear vivid, and the image processor does a great job with HDR, giving the camera decent performance even in dimmer (though not absolutely dark) lighting.

We did have a little issue with battery life. With two active SIM lines, cellular data, and Wi-Fi indoors, the battery barely lasted a day. We're not entirely sure if there was a change in usage habits, the network, or an ill wind in the air, but this was not as good as the results we had in the past. Still, a day without charging is just about what people need, so as long as you aren't careless with your power use, and remember to plug in at night you should be fine.

VALUE ★★★★★

Because this phone was made with this in mind, and the execution of the plan was spot on, there is no real choice but to give the device perfect points for value. There are cheaper phones out there, sure, but not all of them perform quite as well. There are faster, phones too, of course, but they may cost you twice as this. Others of comparable spec and quality just don't perform as well, have old firmware, and aren't likely to get system-critical updates for months, let alone two whole years.

BOTTOMLINE

We just don't think you can go wrong with this implementation of the Android One project.



Lenovo Yoga Tablet 2 Pro

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

As the days roll by, it gets harder and harder for manufacturers to differentiate themselves in an increasingly saturated market. As tablets are released one after another, they tend to sort of blur together in an archetypal tablet idea. Ever on their toes, Lenovo has managed the next, actually useful, addition to what is already a very rich stable of Android devices, the Yoga Tablet 2 Pro.

DESIGN ★★★★★

Lenovo has never really been one to shy away from premium design, and the Yoga Tablet 2 Pro is no exception. With solid metal construction and a large 13-inch screen behind sturdy Gorilla Glass, this has all the feel of a premium device. Turning the device on its side, you'll see it's impossibly thin, with a round "spine" at the base, one side of which is home to the power button, and on the other side, the pico projector. Yes. It comes with a projector.

Other controls are sparse on the device. Apart from volume buttons and a slider for adjusting the projector's focus, there's really little else going on—everything happens on the large, beautiful display. To make the large screen more useful and accessible, Lenovo included a handy kickstand on the back of the device. Like the rest of the device, it's also made of metal, which is great, since it props the whole tablet up when in use. It locks in place, and is released by a button at the back of the device, and once set to a



SPECIFICATIONS:

Display: 13.3-inches, IPS LCD, 2560x1440 (221 ppi)
OS: Android 4.4.2 KitKat
Processor: Intel Atom Z3745, 1.33GHz, quad-core
Memory: 3GB RAM, 32GB internal, expandable via microSD
Camera: 8MP main, 1.6MP front
Connectivity: Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0
Battery: 9600mAh

What's Hot:

- Huge, beautiful screen
- Excellent construction and form factor
- Out-of-the-box features

What's Not:

- Would be great with a full desktop OS
- Heavy for its size



particular angle, stays there very solidly, even when you tap on the screen like a crazy person.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

Since this device is being pushed as designed for entertainment and presentations, it comes with a pretty meaty spec. At the heart of the device is the Intel Atom Z3745 processor that runs at a top speed of 1.86GHz. Together with 2GB of RAM and 32GB of on-board storage, it should be able to hold its own with the best of 'em. The main draw of this particular Yoga is the massive 13-inch QHD (that's 2560x1440) IPS display, and rightly so. It's beautiful.

The Yoga Tablet 2 Pro has basic connectivity options. You have 802.11abgn WLAN in both 2.5 and 5GHz frequencies and Bluetooth 4.0. It doesn't come with cellular, but that's no deal-breaker, particularly given the usage scenarios you're going to have with the device. It does make up for that with an 8MP f2.2 main camera, and a front-facing 1.6MP secondary camera for video calls and the occasional selfie.

Ports are a little sparse. You have a single microUSB port (the same one used for charging), a 3.5mm audio jack, and a microSD card slot.

While the best thing about the tablet is the beautiful screen, the most interesting thing about it is the internal projector which blasts an image out one end of the spine. It's covered by some protective glass, and is entirely unobtrusive, thanks to a lens that is seated completely inside the barrel of the spine. To power all that hardware, the Yoga comes with a huge 9600mAh battery that's hidden in the spine.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

I had a lot of fun using it, and there were some points I completely forgot just how large the screen was. The image is just so large, you can't help but get sucked in. It's also really fast and responsive, so you aren't going to be fumbling about even while playing even some of the faster-paced games.

The kickstand is also very usable. Apart from allowing the tablet to stand almost vertically, you can also set the tablet down almost flat on the table, or higher up, as you would a keyboard, allowing you to get a comfortable typing angle, and still see that large screen very clearly.

The hardware in the Yoga is beefy, and will make short work of basic work things such as word processing, spreadsheets, and presentations, just as Lenovo has designed. While on a roadtrip for work, I decided to really get into the review, and leave my work laptop at home. I was pleased to find that this particular Yoga managed just fine. I only wish they had made a version that runs a full desktop OS, in order to better make use of the large screen.

Speaking of large screens, allow me to be the first to tell you that the projector on the Yoga Tablet Pro 2 is more than just a gimmick. Apart from automatically adjusting its orientation based on the orientation and tilt of the tablet, it has enough brightness to project an image larger than its screen, even in a moderately lit room or office (which is important because otherwise, why not just use the display?) You can have the tablet display both on the screen and the display, or just one or the other, increasing battery life and practical use even more. While you're not going to get a viewable 60-inch screen from the pocket projector, you can easily double the display size from what you have on-screen, without too much trouble.

Battery life is close to the advertised 15 hours, and I was able to manage about two workdays of use without having to plug in. Use of the projector shortens that significantly, but it's not likely you'll be constantly running it, so it's not that big an issue.

VALUE ★★★★★

For what the device can do, what it's made for, and its unique position in a market rife with tablets that are all varying degrees of the same, Lenovo has made a great statement by adding that one different thing to this tablet. Don't get me wrong though, even without what some might consider gimmicky, it's still a solid device. Whether or not it is worth your cash depends solely on whether or not you can use the projector feature, but believe me when I say you will find every opportunity to do so.

BOTTOMLINE

It seems like a gimmick until you actually use it.

D-Link AC1900

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

The wireless router is the unsung hero of any home network. While it's not as flashy as the latest smartphone, or as powerful as a desktop PC, it's on, literally 24/7, quietly, happily streaming data to all of our devices. It really deserves more love, and that's what we're here for today. We'll be looking at the D-Link AC1900 Dual-Band Gigabit Router.



DESIGN ★★★★★

I never thought I would say this, but this is a nice-looking wireless router. A shiny, piano-black on one side, and a matte, patterned finish on the other give it a look that's a bit different from what you might be used to seeing. The back of the router is home to the power button, LAN ports, power, a USB port, and the WAN port. Off to one side is another USB port, this time with USB 3.0 support, for connecting external storage. There are three antennas, each of them slightly bladed, which really works for the overall look of the device. There's little else going on with the device, since all the magic is on the inside.



SPECIFICATIONS:

802.11 bands: 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac
Antennas: External
Networking Options: 802.11ac (2.4+5.0 GHz Dual-band)
IPv6 compatible
Security: PA WPA2
Wired Ports: 4 LAN

What's Hot:

- Simple setup
- Easy UI
- SharePort for USB storage

What's Not:

- Wireless ac performance isn't the fastest

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The AC1900 is an 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac router that works on both the 2.4 and 5GHz bands. Should you have a mix of both older and cutting-edge devices, this isn't a bad way to go. It has external antennas, giving it both range, and great signal fidelity, and allows users access both locally, via the usual router configuration page, and a cloud option that lets you access the router from anywhere, as long as you are logged in to an access account. Apart from wireless connectivity, you also get the standard four LAN ports for wired access.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

Being such important devices, it is usually in your best interest to get a router than can do just that little bit more. The AC1900 is of that disposition. Firstly, setup couldn't be simpler. As long as you get power into the device, and a way to connect it to your modem, you're all set. I had our demo unit running literally five minutes after I opened the box. Shortly after it started broadcasting, we were able to connect, and even now, as I write these words, I am happily streaming some HD video via YouTube. While it can be hard for the average user to determine whether the bottleneck in a home network is due to poor service, or a spotty router, I can say right now that compared to others still on the old office router, my connection does seem more stable, with no drops in service, even from across the office, where there's often a dead spot. This router does offer 802.11ac connectivity, which, using my compatible smartphone, I am happy to report works as advertised, if a little close to average speeds for the standard.

Configuring the router is wonderful. D-Link has updated the UI on the router, so you've got a config page that's actually nice to look at, navigate, and most importantly, use. All the settings are logically lumped together, so you aren't really going to have to spend a lot of time poking

around to find one thing or another. It's nice to see someone has actually spent time making a router's settings page just a little easier on the eyes. From that menu, services can be switched on and off with simple toggles, and the status of your router is plain to see just from the landing page. It's more like a website than a control panel. Everything you need, from parental controls, wireless settings, QoS, and security is right there.

As for value added services, the AC1900 comes with a USB port. As far as routers go, that actually had me a little excited. I plugged in an external drive full of movies and TV shows, enabled UPnP on the router, and got a client on my smartphone, and in less than ten minutes, I was streaming full HD content to my smartphone, right from the hard drive plugged into my wireless router. You can also use the connected drive as shared storage to transfer files from one device to another, as long as both are connected to the router. It's all very smooth and painless, just as a proper router should be.

VALUE ★★★★★

At about PHP 8,000 converted, this device is not a bad deal. You get a router that is easy to use, stable, fast, and full of extra features that allow you to do so much more with your home network, even if you aren't a hardcore user. If the time to replace your router has come, this one is worth a look.

BOTTOMLINE

I hope they forget to take this router back.



Nikon D5500

Reviewed by Chris Noel Hidalgo

DSLRs are awesome. Besides making whoever wields one feel like a professional photographer, they're able to capture images and sceneries only a few mirrorless devices can match. We recently got our hands on Nikon's latest D5500 mid-ranger and were able to stop taking selfies long enough to get in a proper testing.

DESIGN ★★★★★

The D5500 looks just like any other DSLR with its black, textured finish on a single chassis. In hand though, it feels lighter and thinner, and there's noticeably a deeper grip for more agile and comfortable handling.

Up top, you'll find the pop-up flash, accessory shoe, and the streamlined mode dial. As opposed to its predecessors which had too many default options for aperture and shutter speed, the D5500 now only has eight: Manual, Aperture Priority, Shutter Priority, Program, Scene, Auto with Flash, Auto without Flash, and Effects. The shutter speed/aperture control dial has been given a larger, more prominent form too. Gone is that unsightly protrusion on the camera's back. Hopefully, these redesigns will encourage people to go the manual photography route.

Button layout doesn't stray too far from other DSLRs and mirrorless cameras so migrators will feel right at home with this device.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The Nikon D5500's heart is a large 24.3MP APS-C CMOS, 23.5mm x 15.6mm sensor paired with an Expeed 4 processor that should give you very sharp and detailed images no matter how your scene is lighted. The build is solid and reassuring, perfect for both indoor and outdoor situations.

For the first time on a Nikon SLR, there's a 3.2-inch vari-angle touchscreen LCD thrown into the mix. It allows for smartphone-like setting of focus points and touch-to-shoot capabilities, perfect for situations when peering into the viewfinder is impossible.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

The D5500 is a joy to use, there's no doubt about it. It was one of the main cameras for this year's Tanay Roadtrip and even with my lack of super 133t skills, images came out great. Colors were accurate, objects that needed to be dull were dull, and bold items came out punchy. Even all these color ranges in one scene didn't manage to fool the image processor.

The larger dials also meant that manual mode is easier and less taxing on the fingers. ISO, shutter speed, and aperture options are wide enough for even the toughest situations so whether your subjects are kids playing, stationary sculptures, or a nice candle-lit dinner, outputs will not disappoint—given you know what you're doing with the elements.

The comfortable and ergonomic grip along with the tough-as-nails build allowed me to go about taking pictures of the city and its attractions without fearing that the camera will slip from my fingers. And while other cameras had me worried whenever I accidentally (I swear!) bumped into something, I was doubly confident that the D5500 won't flinch in contact with other objects. Heck, even light rain couldn't affect its performance.

Besides the lovely output and sturdy body, the one thing that impressed me was just how long the camera's battery life was. I'm not kidding when I say that I've managed to fill up an 8GB SD card and the battery indicator was still completely green. Unless you go about burst-shooting everything you see, the D5500 will still have plenty of juice for a spontaneous photo shoot come night time.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Sensor: 24.3MP APS-C CMOS, 23.5mm x 15.6mm
ISO range: 100 to 25600
Autofocus: 39-points
Image Processor: Expeed 4
Compatible Lenses: Nikkor AF and AI-P lenses
Continuous Shooting Speed: 5FPS, Time Lapse between 4 and 30 seconds
Video: 60p Full HD
Physical Dimension: 4.9 x 3.9 x 2.8 inches (W x H x D)
Screen Size: 3.2-inches TFT vari-angle LCD touchscreen, 720x480 resolution
Weight: 0.42kg
Connectivity: Wi-Fi, HDMI, 3.5mm audio input
Estimated battery life: 820 shots
Memory: SD, SDHC, SDXC

What's Hot:

- Easy and comfortable to hold
- Excellent photo and video outputs
- All-day battery life

What's Not:

- Special NEF format requires special software
- Price tag not for the average Juan

However, take note that software support for Nikon's native RAW format (NEF) is still pretty slim. To view images, you'd have to download the NEF image codec from Nikon's site. If, like me, you forgot to change shooting option to JPEG, then you'd have to install Nikon's CaptureNX2 for your photos to be useable in editing suites. Until the likes of *Adobe* and *Gimp* come up with support for NEFs, you're better off with JPEGs.

VALUE ★★★★★

Though its PHP 42,900 price tag is way too steep for the beginning photographer, it's a premium people dedicated to honing their craft will be glad to pay. Its great build, top-notch sensors, and superb outputs totally justify the expense, and more importantly, will motivate you to keep heading out searching for that million-dollar shot.

BOTTOMLINE

Pricey. Powerful.
It might out-shoot you.

Seagate Backup Plus Desktop Drive

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

Data is gold. In fact, for many of us, it might even be more important. Memories can't be bought back. Neither can time spent working on a project, or critical documents. Backing up is always the prudent thing to do, but it's far from the simplest of tasks. Seagate, a trusted name in storage, has introduced the Backup Plus: a device that makes backing your digital life up easy. It's a great idea on paper, but implementation is often a different matter. We took the drive out for a spin to see if they nailed it.

DESIGN ★★★★★

As far as desktop hard drives go, the Backup Plus is pleasantly plain. Its monolithic design is bare of anything save for the USB 3.0 port in the back, next to the AC jack; and a power and space indicator light at the front. It's about the height and depth of a small paperback. There should be absolutely no problem keeping this on all but the most cramped of desks. It is designed to stand on end, with little rubber feet at the bottom to keep it steady. Vent holes at the top allow it to effectively dissipate heat. Keeping things off the top of the device might be a good idea.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The Backup Plus we reviewed was the 3TB model. To quickly, efficiently fill that space, Seagate has made the drive USB 3.0 compatible, for fast transfer speeds, even when you are moving a whole digital lifetime's worth of photos, videos, music, and documents. A handy LED indicator near the bottom edge of the front of the device has four bars to show how much space has been used, alongside the status indicator, so you know at a glance if your device is live. The included multi-volt power adapter ships with various heads, so you should be able to find the exact one to fit whatever outlet you may have lurking behind your desk.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

From the start, I was eager to see what the Backup Plus could do. Having lost data many times in the past, I have learned the value of backups, and keep my own. It has never really been easy or convenient to do so manually, so finding a device that does so automatically was intriguing.

Setup was easy. Unpack, plug the necessary cables, and the drive is detected. Inside, there is an installer for the companion software, which is really where the magic lies. Run the installer, do a quick update (with a download size of just around 100MB, if we recall correctly), and you're in business. The software has a notification on the Windows Taskbar, nestled where you would find the volume, wireless, and battery icons, so it's always within easy reach.

Launching the software brings up a dialog that asks you to choose which of several features you would like to use. You have a PC backup option, which takes all of your locally-stored content, and keeps it in the Backup Plus, a Mobile Backup option, which backs the files on your smartphone up on both the device and a cloud account, and a Social backup

option, which won't save you from your next faux pas, but will take all of the photos from Facebook or flickr, and save them locally.

The PC backup option allows you to make a live backup of your local files. It not only stores it on the drive, creating a redundancy when folders and files change. This is updated frequently, so you are likely to have a current snapshot of your device should something go wrong. You also have the option to create a specialized backup plan, and specify which folders should be backed up, and when it should do so. We made a few dummy folders to try this out, and it worked flawlessly, as expected. They put a lot of work into the software, and it really shows. USB 3.0 gives great transfer rates, though there could be other bottlenecks in the pipe, such as your internal HDD speed, or your own machine, that you have to be aware of.

Mobile backup, on the other hand, works in conjunction with a smartphone app (for Android and iOS) to back your contents up both locally and on the cloud. While this might be the most complicated of all processes, it remains quite simple. Just install the smartphone app, sign in on your device, and make sure your phone and computer are on the wireless network. The software takes care of the rest. It was rather painless, and did take a little while to complete, so it might be a good idea to do that overnight, as you catch some shut-eye. The cloud backup requires a separate cloud account to store files, but the software takes care of the heavy lifting, so after you pick a provider and a schedule, you're all set. Do bear in mind that it doesn't take the place of a system backup, so you should do that separately.

The last option is a backup of the media files on your Facebook or flickr page. This is an interesting option and one that a lot of "non-hardcore" users might appreciate. While off-site servers do a great job keeping data indefinitely, having offline access to that data is nice too, and really the point behind the process.

VALUE ★★★★★

Like seeing the dentist, getting an annual checkup, or changing the oil in your car, making backups really isn't something you would do just for the heck of it—a schedule makes it happen, and sans one, those might not even happen at all. The Seagate brand, great software, and even cloud integration make for a piece of hardware that you'll thank yourself for having someday (though we hope it doesn't come to that.)



SPECIFICATIONS:

Storage: 3TB
Connectivity: USB 3.0
Power: External, 220V
Features: Smartphone, desktop, SNS backups, live backups, scheduled backups
Compatibility: Windows, Mac

What's Hot:

- Great software
- Lots of storage
- SNS, smartphone integration

What's Not:

- Some setup required

BOTTOMLINE

Like a fire extinguisher, a great backup drive is something you'll hate yourself for not having when you need it. Do yourself a favor and get the best.

CamelBak M.U.L.E. NV

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

It has been a while since I climbed on almost a weekly basis, but of all the lessons I learned on the trail, the one that stuck with me the most is "pack light." Every gear you carry up has to be carried back down, so every little thing counts. During our recent sojourn to the wilderness of Daraitan, Rizal, I once again defaulted to my old training, and decided to pack as little as possible for the hike. Fortunately, CamelBak had us covered. Along with a whole bunch of water bottles, we had with us the M.U.L.E. NV, (which I will refer to as the MULE NV from here on out) a small, light hydration pack with enough storage for a quick assault.



DESIGN ★★★★★

The MULE NV is a handsome backpack. It's a very nice combination of black, and "atomic blue" as per the catalog. The combination just screams "adventure" so you won't be out of place in the wild. It's part of the company's Mountain Bike collection, and as such, is a little smaller than some of the day packs you are likely to see. While it's mostly meant to be worn while on your two-wheeled steed, it is also the perfect size for a quick climb up and down, particularly if you are like me, and do everything you can to pack light. It's made of sturdy ripstop nylon, and weighs a surprisingly light 1 pound, 5 oz., or just under 600 grams. That's great news, as you can use the weight you save to bring other important gear.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The MULE NV gives you 12L of space, split over a main compartment, a handy front pocket, and a smaller top pouch for storing small, important items. It also has handy pouches on the belt, if you need to keep other items close, for easy access.

The harness is thin and light, which helps keep the air circulating, and the back features CamelBak's independent suspension, with perforated foam, so you are comfortable and cool, even when the action gets intense.

Being a CamelBak product, it wouldn't be complete without a hydration bladder. The MULE NV has a 3L of space for a bladder, and an extremely handy magnetic tube trap, so you can keep the bite valve in control, but within easy reach.

In case the weather turns, the bottom of the pack hides a bright yellow rain cover that's very easy to access and put away, and totally unobtrusive.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

Like I said at the start of this review, I put a premium on packing light. The quick hike we had in store was only about 3 hours both ways, but it was mostly over punishing terrain, scrambling over rocks and boulders. Because the MULE NV is designed for use on a bike, it's wonderfully compact, and rides very close to the body. Not once, even through gnarly foliage, did I snag. Even though it stays close to your body, the pack is designed well enough to not be stifling. I like to keep my gear snug, and even in that state, there was enough room to let the air circulate around my back and keep me cool. Speaking of snug, I was pleasantly surprised to find that even by the end of the hike, the pack had not shifted or loosened. Should you use this on singletrack, I guarantee you won't have any issues with the pack shifting during use. Just set the sternum strap and waist strap snugly, and you'll be fine all day.

The pack had enough room for a complete change of clothes in the main compartment, along with lunch, and a few other essentials, with a lot of room to spare. The zippered belt pouches were a great place to keep a few candies, my GoPro (though it was a snug fit), or some emergency cash that you would like to keep within easy reach. The top zippered compartment kept my phone safe in a soft, velvety embrace more than high enough so that you don't have to worry about drowning it during all but the most intense water crossings.

While traversing the river wasn't a problem since we stayed in the shallows, we were hit by foul weather. Actually, "foul" is putting it mildly. There were points when the only word to describe the rain was "driving." Fortunately for me (and my gadgets), the rain cover was extremely easy to get to and deploy. The rain came fast and hard, leaving little time before we were drenched. The bright yellow rain cover was out and on in a snap, and stayed on

SPECIFICATIONS:

Total Capacity: 12L + 3L reservoir
Pack weight: .64kg
Height: 16.5 inches
Belt: .75 inch, with pockets
Harness: Independent Suspension, mesh and perforated foam
Fabric: Ripstop Nylon

What's Hot:

- I actually forgot I had it on me
- Light
- Enough storage for its purpose

What's Not:

- A bit pricey

securely. By the end of the trip, my belongings were bone-dry.

My favorite feature apart from the bag itself was the Magnetic Tube Trap. It held the tube in place very securely, and even though I was mostly flailing my arms around to try and grab on to whatever I could, it stayed right there, ready to give me sweet hydrating relief from the tiring trail.

VALUE ★★★★★

There are few packs that are built as well as this. It's rugged, useful, and extremely comfortable, plus the execution of the hydration system is beyond any other out there. You'd be pressed to find gear like this, no matter if you hit the trails on two wheels, or your own two feet.

BOTTOMLINE

If you're out on adventures a lot, and want to keep your gear down to a minimum, you should seriously consider the MULE NV.

Photography **DOOKIE DUKAY**
Art Direction **BENEDICT ASAL**
Hair & Make up **PATRICIA AQUINO**
Styling **CLA GREGORIO**
Model **SIRENE SUTTON** of
TITAN Premiere Models

THE NEW CLICK 125i

Top by **Topshop**
Earrings, jeans,
and pumps by **H&M**





Highway to Heaven

What do you get when you combine an imposing motorcycle with a drop dead gorgeous muse? Gadgets Magazine's April Photo Feature, that's what. We proudly present the stunning British-Filipina Sirene Sutton getting some one on one time with the hottest motorcycle yet, the Honda Click 125i. Yes, it's okay to feel jealous of the scooter.





Combined Brake System

Optimal brake performance especially for short distances by distributing brake force to rear and front wheels through the left brake lever

Liquid-Cooled 125cc PGM-FI Engine

Equipped with a Honda Smart technology 125cc engine with PGM-FI System, delivering clean combustion and low friction for optimum engine performance and fuel-efficiency



Alternator / Starter System

Electronic generating system that optimizes engine performance while reducing friction, vibration and engine noise



Idling Stop

Delivering enhanced fuel-efficiency of up to 58.9km/liter (based on ECE R40 Mode)

The Future of Scooters

Nothing's more exhilarating than zooming down the blacktop aboard a motorcycle that looks good and runs great. Though the two adjectives rarely go together, the Honda Click 125i is a bike that manages to impress in the aesthetics and performance department with its striking design matched with a myriad of premium technologies. Billed as the future of scooters, the Honda Click 125i is a telltale sign of bright days ahead for the two-wheeled steed.



Leather jacket and shorts by
Topshop
Cuff earrings by **H&M**
Pumps by **ZALORA**



LCD Digital Meter



New LED Head Light



Helmet in XL Ubox



Aggressive Tail Light



Side-Stand Switch



Integrated safety ignition





Young and Unstoppable

Interviewed by Mia Carisse Barrientos

While it is often that people pass modeling off to be an easy job, there is more to it than just being pretty and glamorous. If you look at it on the inside, it is a tough and serious profession. Models put a lot of extra work to maintain a slender frame and flawless skin, because apart from having a unique profile, these help them book jobs. Posing, on the one hand, is another thing.

Getting some pretty pictures down is a lot trickier than most people realize, particularly when you do it for a living. In our April belle, Sirene Sutton's case, she had to pose alongside the readily fierce and photogenic Honda Click 125i.

Without a moment's hesitation, the 5'9 knockout went ahead and approached the lean machine and posed as if she had been modeling with motorcycles her whole career. Her youth and bubbly personality resonated through every pose, and every movement. It was her show, and the Honda Click 125i was her gorgeous accessory.

With endorsements and high-profile catwalks to back her portfolio, the self-supporting student-model isn't wasting a moment to cross that bridge towards recognition. It may not be long before you see her branching out into hosting and building an empire, just like Heidi Klum, her fashion role model. More than just a pretty face, the 20-year-old Sirene Sutton is well on her way to making waves in the modeling industry, and it doesn't seem like there's any stopping her.



We care

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Every man wants to satisfy his naughty side.
To help you be Ze Man you want to be,
there's **ZEMAN SX**.

ZEMAN SX contains the proprietary MBP (Male Body Performance) Complex, a powerhouse formulation that contains ZMA, L-Carnitine, Selenium and various vitamins. ZMA uses L-Optizinc, a unique form of Zinc that enhances absorption of nutrients into the body for improved muscle strength and endurance. So you can perform and satisfy your naughty side.

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GADGETS MAGAZINE EXPLORES TANAY

Words and Photos by Team Gadgets | Additional Photos from the Tanay Tourism Office



Mayor Rafael Tanjuatco (fourth from right) and Tourism Officer Jeffrey Pino (second from left) welcoming Team Gadgets to Tanay.



Since roads to the north and south are always congested when public holidays come around, *Gadgets Magazine* decided to hit the road less travelled to discover places unspoiled by the deluge of tourists. Our journey took us to Tanay, a gem just two hours east of Metro Manila, with a whole lot of activities and sights sure to please the adventurous, the artistic, and the laid-back alike.

This first-class municipality is surrounded by the Sierra Madre mountain range to the east and Laguna de Bay to the South. If you're a history buff, you will know that this strategic location was a magnet for early civilizations and tribes, however, it was the Spaniards (big surprise) who commissioned it into a pueblo called "Monte de Tan-ay." Why the name? A local story tells that the Spanish colonizers found a boy within the mountains crying for his parents "Tay" and "Nay." Thanks to language barriers, the foreigners thought it was the name of where they are.

Fast forward to the present, Tanay retains much of its colonial influence, including the characteristic European elements of its church and plaza system rooted from Spain; and the Gabaldon-style buildings and municipal hall as influenced by the Americans.

With everything Tanay has to offer—cozy and hospitable resorts and inns, peaceful vistas, and adrenaline-pumping treks—where can tourists go first? As always, we have your back. After the break, we share the must-visit places for particular lifestyles as recommended by the ever-helpful LGU led by Mayor Rafael Tanjuatco and Tanay Tourism Office headed by Jeffrey Pino.

Special shoutout to Mike Anthony Catuira, Tanay Tourism Photographer/Promotion and Marketing Staff, who served as our guide during our escapade!

GETTING TO TANAY

Tanay's easily accessible both to commuters and private vehicle owners, with travel times ranging from one to three hours depending on how bad traffic is. If you're heading there on a weekday, we advise that you leave before 6:00 AM and if on a weekend, 7:00 AM, for you to be able to enjoy what Tanay has to offer without being rushed by the setting sun.

Driving to Tanay

If you're closer to Metro Manila's northern areas (Quezon City, Caloocan, Valenzuela, and Malabon), you can pass through Katipunan or Aurora Boulevard en route to Marikina. You then have two choices: follow the length of Marcos Highway until you reach Tanay's uplands, or cut through Antipolo, Teresa, Morong, and Baras to get to Tanay lowlands. Choosing the former, the first establishment you'll see that's on our list will be Ten Cents to Heaven. As an added bonus, you'll be treated to exciting twisties and spectacular views of mountain tops and lush landscapes.

The latter option will see you driving closer to civilization and active streets. Cruising down Marcos Highway, take a right at Don Juan Sumulong Highway, then left after passing Robinsons Place Antipolo.

Afterwards, take the third roundabout exit so you're on E. Rodriguez Avenue, then right at the Puting Bato Road hairpin. After a tight curve, turn right to keep on E. Rodriguez avoiding Roman Rojas Road; left to M.L. Quezon Avenue; right to Magsaysay Avenue; left to J. Sumulong; then keeping true to Teresa-Morong National Road.

After quite a ways, you'll make a right then a U-turn to travel along Manila East Road.



The sporty Volkswagen Tiguan, with its fuel-efficient TDI engine, easily dominated both rough terrain and asphalt.

Head left on the fork to remain on track. After another bout of following the road, turn right on Sampaloc Road. Congratulations, you're now in the Tanay City Proper!

If you're from the southern part of the Metro, you can take Ortigas Avenue and its extension, take the Taytay Diversion Road exit on the roundabout, then follow the Manila East Road through Taytay, Angono, Binangonan, Cardona, Morong, and Baras. Turn right at Sampaloc Road after hours of driving to arrive at the Tanay City Proper.

If you take a wrong turn, don't be afraid of asking the locals. And if you've a crippling fear of not knowing where you are, be on the safe side and use map apps such as *Waze*, *Google Maps*, *Here Maps*, and *Apple Maps*.



We skipped the mineral water bottles and went with the eco-friendly, re-usable containers from CamelBak.

Commuting to Tanay

There are plenty of jeeps and vans that ferry people to Tanay and they can be found near Starmall EDSA, LRT Santolan, and Araneta Center, Cubao.

If the Starmall EDSA terminal is more convenient for you, you have three options: ride a Starmall-Tanay jeep for PHP 53, Starmall-Tanay FX for PHP 70, or EDSA Central/Parklea-Tanay jeep for PHP 53.

Should you be nearer to Araneta Center, Cubao, you can catch a jeep heading to Antipolo for PHP 32.50, alight at Ynares Center, then ride an Antipolo-Tanay jeep for PHP 28. Alternatively, you can hop aboard the LRT-2 heading to Santolan, then ride a Santolan-Tanay FX for PHP 70. All these routes end in Tanay's Public Market, so you can safely sleep without worrying about missing your stop.

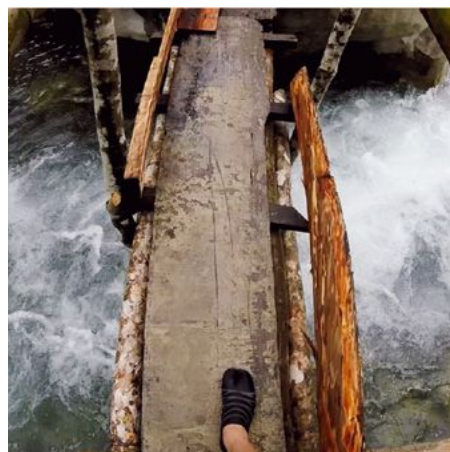
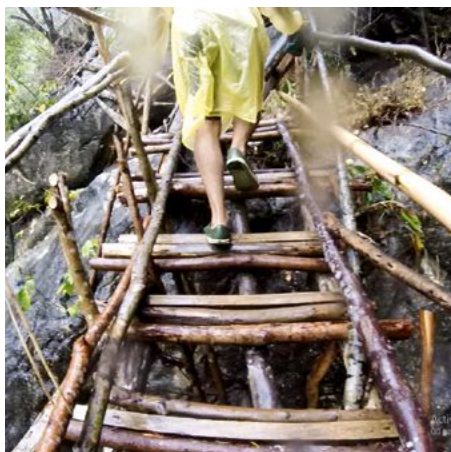


For the hands-on executive, the Honda Accord offers lots of power on tap perfect for Tanay's steep climbs and twisties.



The mere mention of a hike brings to mind distant mountains such as Sagada or Mount Pulag. It doesn't necessarily make you think about Tanay, Rizal. We implore you to reconsider. While only about 90 minutes from Quezon City, Tanay offers vistas at least at par with some of the more remote locations you may be accustomed to visiting. To prove our point, we packed our day bags, donned our hiking shoes, and went to see what kind of adventure we could find in Rizal.

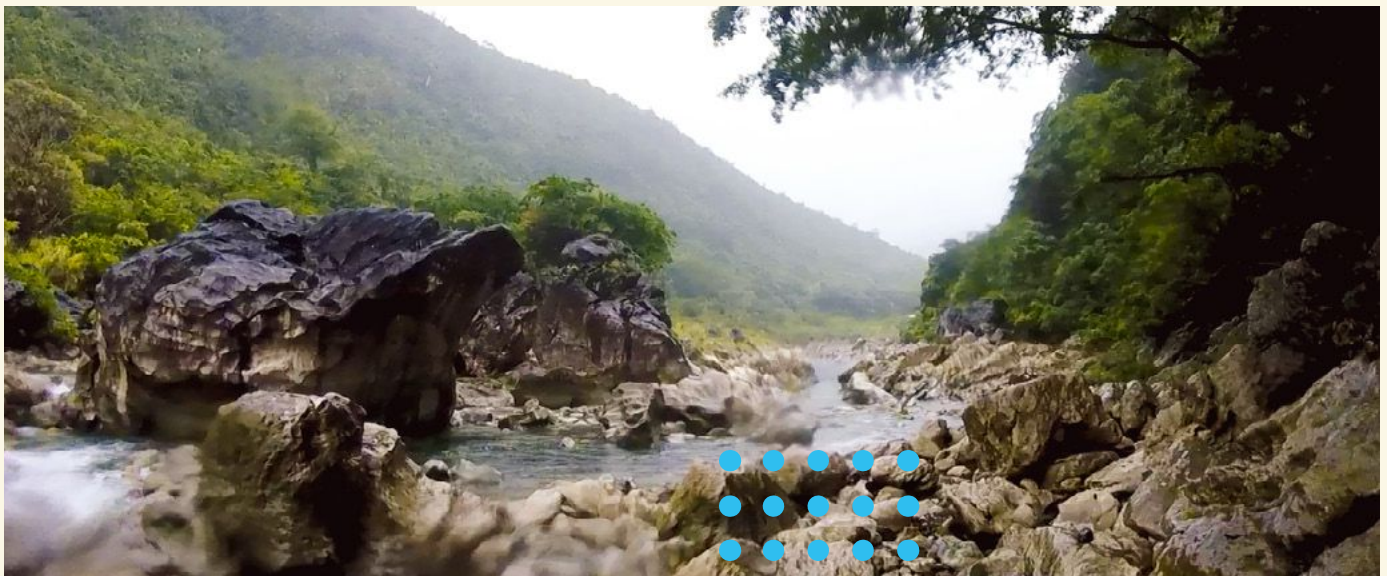
+ FOLLOW THIS ROUTE



TIMELINE

Since Tanay isn't all that far away, you don't necessarily have to be up at the crack of dawn to get there at a reasonable hour, which means you can enjoy the luxury of a meal before you shove off. Breakfast is always a welcome way to start a day of adventuring. Kata Café right at Tanay, is a great place to go for sandwiches or a full-on Filipino breakfast, and if you aren't the kind to want to try and cook up a feast while halfway through your hike, you can order some food to go. Just make sure you pack it well so it doesn't get soggy should the weather turn.

The drive to the jump off point at Barangay Daraitan is about 75 minutes long, with stretches of steep, unpaved road. While most cars should be able to handle the drive just fine, you're going to worry a lot less if you have some ground clearance to spare. The barangay hall you're aiming for really isn't visible on *Waze*, so we had to rely on *Google Maps*, waypoints, and general map reading skills to find the way.



The available hikes in the vicinity of Tanay, particularly Daraitan, are of reasonable length. According to the guides, the trek up mount Daraitan should take just over three hours, while the scenic route along Tinapak River, and Tinapak Cave takes a hair over an hour and a half, though it's mostly scrambling over rocks, so prepare yourself. The guides are very accommodating, pleasant, and take their jobs very seriously. Their desire to show off the natural beauty of Daraitan is surpassed only by their concern for their guests' safety. Frequent and comprehensive seminars and classes make sure they are always at the top of their game, so follow their tips and instructions, and you'll have far more fun than if you try and hack it yourself.

While on the hike, you can make frequent stops to take dips in the calmer parts of the river, or sit on the huge boulders that are scattered generously along the trail. The guides have tried to make the hike more accessible by filling in particularly difficult or dangerous sections with larger rocks, sand, and even wooden bridges where necessary, but trust us when we say there's plenty of challenge left even if you're after a more hardcore walk.



The cave itself is spectacular. Inside is a river of clear, cool, freshwater, and farther inside is a pool wherein you can take a dip. On regular days, when there are dozens of tourists lined up to visit, time inside is limited to 30 minutes, but trust us when we say you're going to want to stay for much longer.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

The roads to Tanay, as well as the neighboring destinations are twisty, and can be taken at speed. If you're prone to travel sickness, take your medication beforehand.

As we said above, the roads are twisty and can be taken at speed. Some people see this as an invitation to use it as their own Nurburgring. Do proceed with caution.

As with any wilderness trip, be prepared with wet gear in case the weather turns. It can get chilly when the wind blows down the valley, and that's going to be much worse if you're in damp clothes.

Don't forget to bring a light, particularly if you're going to head down into the cave. You should always have one on you anyway.

Be prepared to pay the necessary fees before you jump off. It's just a few hundred, and it really does a lot to help the area. If your heart is in it, it wouldn't be a bad thing to give your guides a tip. It's a hard work they do, and it's all out of love for their community.

OTHER PLACES TO VISIT



The obstacle course at Ten Cents to Heaven.



Our lunch spread at Sampaloc Inn.

Ten Cents To Heaven

If you're bringing your whole family, or a team of individuals for a big teambuilding event, Ten Cents To Heaven should be on your short list. They have a zipline that's over a kilometer long, an obstacle course, large, comfortable rooms, and their own restaurant with a great view of the surrounding mountainside.

Sampaloc Inn

Those in need of affordable, comfortable accommodations need not look farther than Sampaloc Inn. Primarily a restaurant with great Filipino fare, they also have deluxe and family rooms, all at a venue that isn't far from both the city, and surrounding adventure venues.

Kainan sa Tabing Lawa

Once you're done, and have made your way back to civilization, it will then be time to reward yourself with a massive feast. Kainan sa Tabing Lawa has just the thing to satiate what is bound to be a massive adventuring appetite. Fresh seafood, grilled dishes, and refreshing vegetables are all staples here. If your climb was hit by foul weather, and your group is both soggy and in need of a boost in morale, there are few things a hot, delicious meal can't fix.

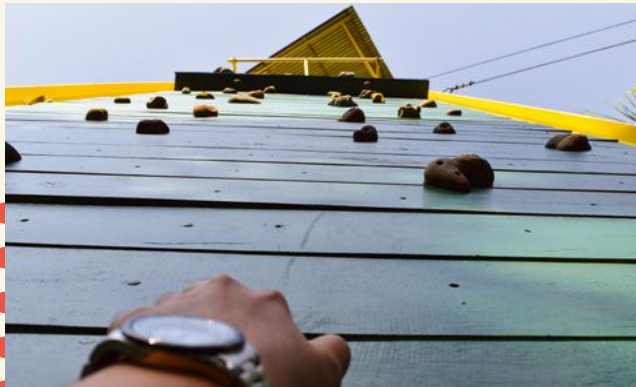


Kainan sa Tabing Lawa
 Sampaloc Road cor. Manila East Road, Tanay, Rizal (Highway Branch)
 #6 Lakeshore Drive, Tanay, Rizal (Lakeshore Branch)
 0949-698-4108/0908-451-8578
kainansatabinglawa.tanay@gmail.com

Cheryl Catameo, owner and manager of Kainan sa Tabing Lawa.

Bakasyunan Resort and Conference Center

If you're after some adventure minus the physical hardship associated with a walk in the wild, Bakasyunan Resort and Conference Center in Tanay has a whole lineup of activities, from ATV and mountain bike trails, hanging bridges, pools, and lots of space for you to work up a sweat. They also have rooms right on-site, so if you have more adventure in you than one day has hours, you can have a good rest, and pick up where you left off.



Sierra Madre Hotel

Going on an adventure also means there is corresponding down time afterwards, and since you're in the area, you should head over to Sierra Madre Hotel in Tanay. Not only do they have a zipline for their braver guests, they have pools, a gorgeous view deck, and rooms where you can unwind and process all the wonderful things you experienced during your trip.



FOLLOW THE ROUTE

Follow Marcos Highway, past the Tanay-Sampaloc road, past Camp Capinpin, all the way until you turn left to the Makaira-Daraitan road.

Keep going along that until you cross the large wooden(!) bridge at the Agos River, and just keep following the road.

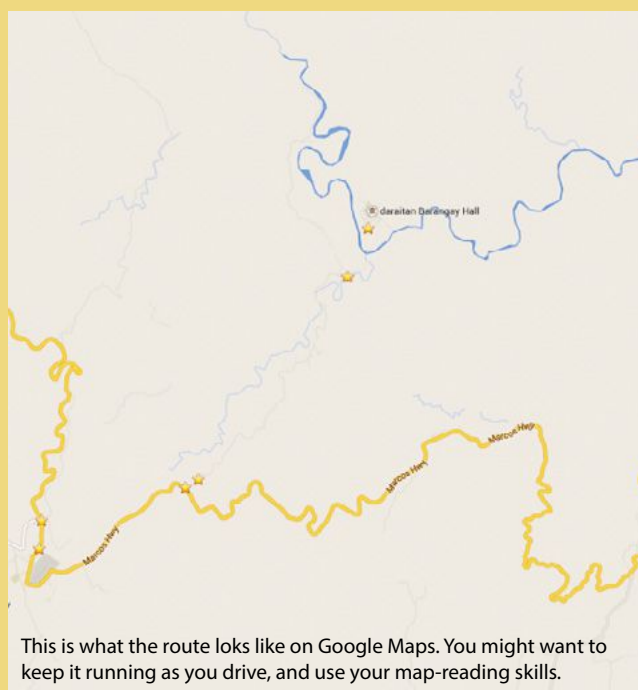
Roads there do have names, but not a lot of them are paved, so it's best to ask one of the locals how best to get to the Barangay hall.

You're going to be far better served by firing up Google Maps and making use of some basic map-reading skills.

If you're going to be taking public transportation: Alight at the Tanay Public Market, grab a jeep to Barangay Daraitan. That ride should take you about an hour. You can also rent a whole jeep which should cost significantly less than PHP 2000. From there, it's a quick walk to the Barangay Hall, and the rest of your adventure.

If you're travelling with a single companion, you could take a tricycle from Sampaloc to Daraitan, so you don't have to wait for the jeep to get filled.

You could also contact the guides directly, to arrange a ride straight to Daraitan. This will usually involve renting a whole jeep, but is worth the time you will save.



This is what the route looks like on Google Maps. You might want to keep it running as you drive, and use your map-reading skills.

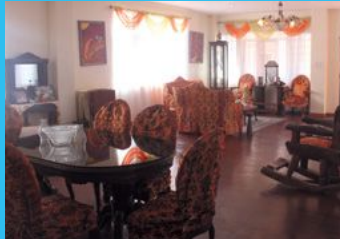
SAMPALOC INN

Hotel and Restaurant



This quaint inn situated along Marcos Highway offers backpackers and budget travelers an experience worth more than the cost of admission. The reception area resembles your typical living room, with wooden furniture centered around a television, while right next door is an internet café should you need a little more than what the hotel Wi-Fi can provide. They also have a restaurant so there's no need to head outside again after all the walking and hiking you've already done.

As for the hotel rates, your wallet will smile knowing that a 12 hour stay will cost as little as PHP 650 for an economy room, PHP 900 for the bigger deluxe room, and PHP 1,100 for a family room with two double-size beds. Believe us, the rooms are very nice and, coupled with courteous staff, gives your buck the best bang it could get within the municipality.



Sampaloc Inn Hotel and Restaurant

Barangay Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal

546-2031/0939-354-6945/0919-990-8137

frontdesk@sampalocinn.com/sampalocinn_hotelnresto@yahoo.com

TEN CENTS TO HEAVEN

Leisure Park

True to its name, Ten Cents to Heaven is a blissful paradise located atop Tanay, Rizal. Just minutes away from the town proper, this leisure camp is a secluded haven amidst trees and fragrant blooms.

At Ten Cents to Heaven, your eyes are in for a treat with a view of hills, wooden lodges, stone staircases, and unspoiled nature, all so picturesque as to appear to have been taken out straight out of a fairy tale. Apart from a beautiful view of the Sierra Madre and Laguna de Bay, there are shacks, seats, and wooden swings scattered across the huge estate if you want to unwind, and get in touch with nature.

The leisure camp grounds also house camping decks, a recreational hall, pavilion, chapel, family rooms,

dorms, and house rentals to fit different preferences. As for other recreational amenities, there are two swimming pools that gives you a great view of the vast mountains, and even fish spa pool. For the adventurous, Ten Cents offers you the longest zip line in Luzon, a 60-ft high infrastructure you can rappel over and down, a 70-ft. high panel for wall climbing, a 70-ft high overhang for free fall, and rope course games for team building activities.

The management also arranges 4x4 adventures, a water falls tour, as well as tours around Tanay. If your budget doesn't allow for an overnight stay, you can stop by their in-house restaurant, Camp Café, which serves a diverse menu to satiate the most intense of cravings.

Ten Cents to Heaven Leisure Park

Sitio Mayagay II, Cuyambay, Tanay, Rizal

www.tencentstoheaven.com/tencentstoheaven@gmail.com



www.gadgets magazine.com.ph



Sometimes, you just need to get away from the hustle and bustle of the Metro and go on an artistic pilgrimage—one that reminds of our Filipino roots and culture—while still reaping the rewards of top-notch hospitality, great food, and great sceneries. You don't even have to go far and break the bank for those because just two hours away from Manila is Tanay—a municipality nestled between Laguna de Bay and the Sierra Madre mountains bearing quite a few hidden gems for the artsy and cultured you.

+ FOLLOW THIS ROUTE

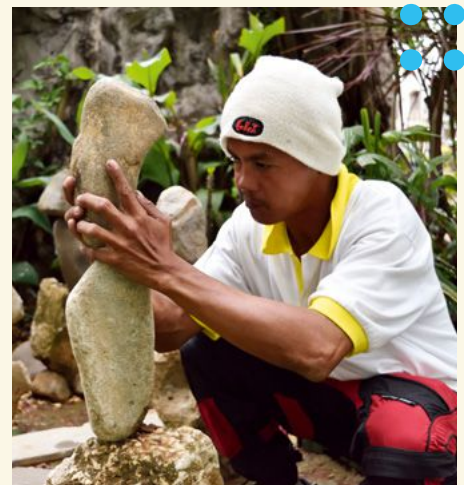


Tanay Church

Driving down the bay-side Manila East Road, your first stop would be the San Ildefonso Parish or **Tanay Church**, a place with enough history to pique the interest and curiosity of non-Catholics. Construction began in 1773 through the leadership of Father Alonso de Fentanes—as rumor has it, using forced labor—and was finished in a decade. Meanwhile, the six retablos inside were installed in 1786 in honor of their saints.

Besides some Filipino influences like the Romans using *bolos* and not swords in the Stations of the Cross, you're pretty much getting the same religious aesthetics as those churches in Europe. In fact, it's one of the most beautiful in Asia.

At the church grounds is another sight you just can't miss, mainly because of its size but also because of its story: the wooden sculpture of San Ildefonso. Finished only recently, it was carved from a century-old dying acacia tree. Though the locals tried to revive it through tree surgery, it was too far gone to be saved. Thankfully, its legacy lives on through the help of artists, scientists, and church leaders.



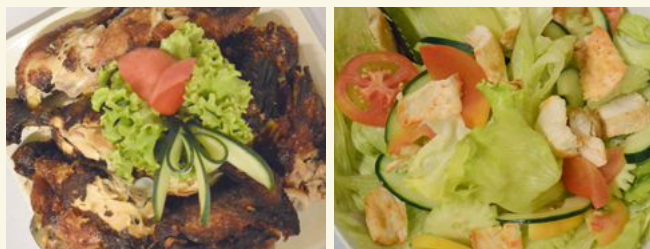
Tanay Plaza

Like we've been told in history class, most communities during the Spanish period were modeled after the plaza system, where essentials such as the government, market, water ways, and religion were built around an area known as the plaza.

That's exactly what you'll see next to the Tanay Church. Sights of note in **Tanay Plaza** include a statue of Dr. Jose Rizal in a pose more relaxed than his Luneta counterpart (we lightheartedly called it "Walling Rizal"); rocks stacked on top of each other as a show of skill and way of alleviating boredom by the local cleaners; and a tourism booth wherein you'd find a couple of artworks made by the local tourism officers. There's also a map showing popular Tanay destinations.

The Gathering Café

Heading up the mountain, you can get yourself a hearty lunch and a little pick-me-up at **The Gathering Café by Tanay Hills Coffee Beanery**. You have a choice of eating inside the resto or dining in the nearby nipa huts for a true *probinsya* feel. Though the food was delicious, the highlight of the meal was a cup of the Beanery's special coffee. I mixed mine with two teaspoons of sugar and milk and let me tell you, the taste is so smooth you'd find yourself ordering a couple more. And that's coming from a non-coffee drinker.



The Gathering Café by Tanay Hills Coffee Beanery
 Marcos Highway, Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal
 631-0493/0916-361-1010/0949-869-9114
info@tanayhillscoffee.com/tanaycofeeco@gmail.com

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Ornate tableaus and elaborate statues surround Tanay Church's altar. You can get up close and personal with the main *retablo* by climbing the stairs to its side. Don't forget to make a wish while there!

Rock balancing is a huge thing here, requiring equal parts patience, steady hands, and skill. Ask the locals to give you a demo, and then have a go at it yourself.

Buy tons of home-grown coffee in different flavors at The Gathering.

Respect the sanctity of Regina RICA and wear proper clothes so you don't have to borrow their shawls and skirts. Enjoy their vegetarian meals containing ingredients grown on-site.

Look at—and if you've cash, take home—the gorgeous art pieces of Paseo Rizal but don't touch them.

Sierra Madre Hotel has lots of resident dogs. Stealing a cute puppy from them will probably get you declared *persona non grata*.

OTHER PLACES TO VISIT



JE Camp Hotel and Resort

A private compound owned by former President and now Manila Mayor Joseph Ejercito Estrada, it'll take you a day to go through all the activities they have here. Gorgeous rooms, pools, a fishing spot, horse ranch, mini zoo, saloon bar with Erap's trinkets, and a Mindanao-inspired village are just some of the attractions they have here. The main one though is the Joseph Ejercito Estrada Museum and Archives where you can watch a documentary about the man.

EM VEL Furniture

This manufacturer boasts world-class furniture pieces that are stylish and unique to say the least. They can provide anything for your garden, living room, bed room, and dining room—all from high quality and environment-friendly materials.

Lorenzo Garden Favors and Herb Garden

Another organic-oriented shop, Lorenzo's Garden Favors prides itself in customized plant gifts fit for any occasion, including weddings, birthdays, baptisms, and holidays. As the name implies, the herbs are produced, or rather grown, from their garden, and each comes with its own special meaning.

Regina RICA

Founded and maintained by Dominican Sisters, the Regina Rosarii Institute for Contemplation in Asia (RICA) is the perfect place to just sit back and reflect. It sits atop 13.5 hectares of fields and meadows, and even from afar, you can glimpse the iconic countenance of the 71-foot tall Our Lady, Regina Rosarii, on top of the Hill.

Entrance is free, but if you're bringing a car along, they charge a PHP 50 parking fee. There is an orientation area where visitors are given a brief background about the institute, and reminded of house rules. The most important things to note are you should be on your best behavior on the site, and that revealing clothes and shorts cut above the knee are frowned upon, so remember to dress appropriately.

To get to Regina Rosarii, visitors must climb uphill through the flower-filled Mary's Sacred Trail. Beneath the statue is an area known as the *Sulod* where blessings are given, and nearby is the Blessing of Candles where you can light one for prayer. Though picture-taking is allowed anywhere within RICA, the *Sulod* is a strictly no-photography zone.

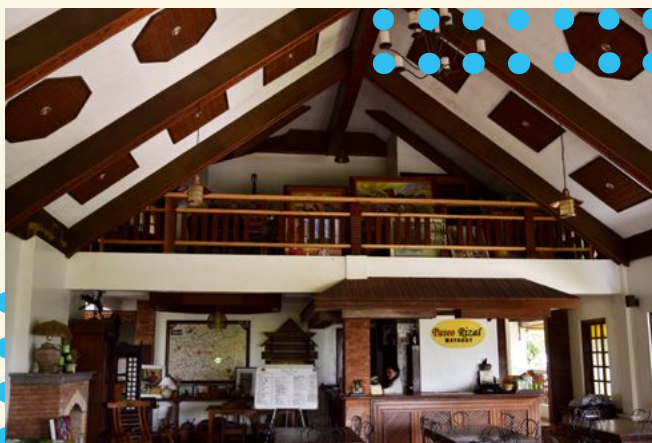
Other places of interest here are the *Pahuwayan* Columbarium and Ossuary for urn burials, the Regina Rosarii Chapel, the Stations of the Cross, and San Jose Rotonda.



Paseo Rizal

Tired from walking up and down Regina RICA's sprawling landscape? Give yourself a gastronomic and visual treat by heading over to Paseo Rizal. Their menu consists mostly of Filipino food such as *bulalo*, *sinigang*, *adobo*, *pakbet*, and *crispy pata*, as well as all-day breakfast plates, coffees, teas, and sweet and sticky Filipino desserts. Servings are in group or individual sizes, perfect if you're with loved ones, friends, or by yourself.

Downstairs below the dining area is the *Kalingang Pilipino* housing numerous paintings, sculptures, and mixed media works made by local artists, all for sale. You'd also find a clothesline pinned with messages from previous visitors.



FOLLOW THE ROUTE

Take a tricycle from Tanay Public Market to Tanay Church for just PHP 10 per head!

Walk to Tanay Plaza and take pictures of everything. Then look at the locals playing "spot the tourist."

Go back to the market and ride a Sampaloc-Tanay jeepney for PHP 28. Get off at Sampaloc Market and take a tricycle for PHP 15 to The Gathering. Finally, food!

Another PHP 15 (and a bit of walking) and you'll arrive at Regina RICA. Feel at peace and be one with nature.

Phew! Walking up and down hills will take a lot out of you! Good thing Paseo Rizal's just a PHP 100 to 200 tricycle away.

After a PHP 25 trike ride, you'll be comfy cozy at Sierra Madre Hotel. Turn in for the night but first, take pictures with the Greek statues, Sto. Ninos, and doggies here!

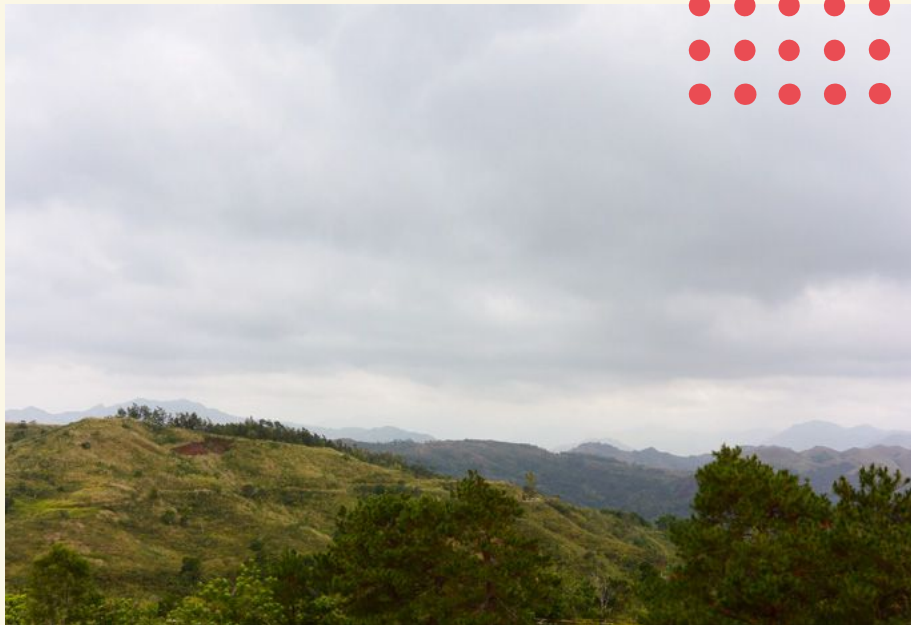


Sierra Madre Hotel and Resort

Sierra Madre Hotel was one of the first resorts in Tanay. Just a couple of minutes away from Paseo Rizal is this quaint establishment with more than what the eyes let on. Sierra Madre Hotel and Resort has most of what you could ever ask for in a lodge, including food, its own purified water supply, pools, daring activities, hanging bridges, beautiful rooms, and a breathtaking view of the mountain range.

They also have a Greek-inspired garden with ionic columns and gazebos, as well as statues perfect for posing with. Finally, they have a small church with a huge private collection of Sto. Niño sculptures.

P.S. If you're a dog lover, they have lots of friendly dogs and puppies roaming around, ready for playtime!



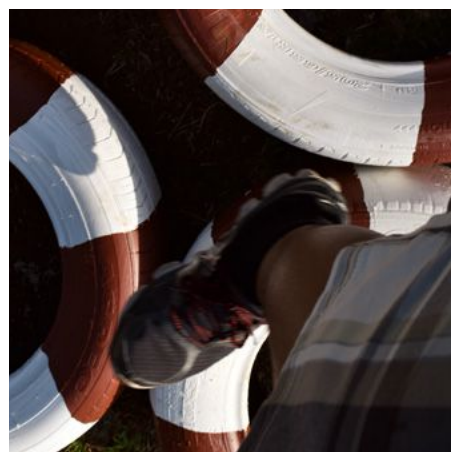
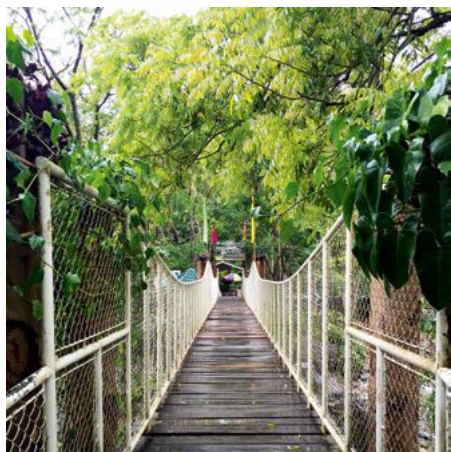
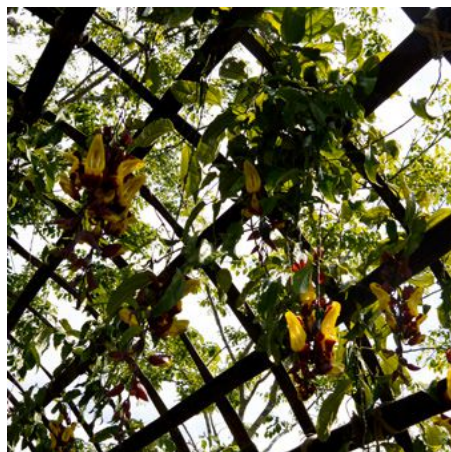
Sierra Madre Hotel and Resort
Marcos Highway, Sitio Mayagay,
Tanay, Rizal
475-7320|475-7321
thesierramadrecc@yahoo.com





Work is important, you know that. But maintaining an active lifestyle is another thing. Unlike workaholics, you're more relaxed. You prefer to take things one at a time. It doesn't necessarily mean you're lazy. When there's downtime, there's nothing wrong with lounging on the soft and cozy sofa while munching on potato chips. When the season is right though, you won't hesitate to break away from your sheets to bask in the earthy warmth of the outdoors.

+ FOLLOW THIS ROUTE

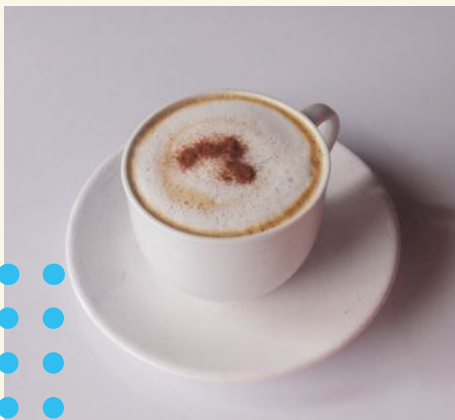


TIMELINE

It's great to travel; you get to unwind, pick up new experiences, and meet wonderful people along the way. However, there are circumstances that keep you from doing so. There's the heat. In a country where summer is both hot and crushingly humid, some prefer to stay in rather than to go out and enjoy the sun, but this shouldn't stop you from getting your much deserved R&R this season of travel.

To combat the heat, some go up north: to Cordillera, where it's summer-proof; down south: to Visayas, where rockin' bods are flaunted; or to foreign shores, out of reach of roads. While all those make for trips that are definitely for the books, airport hassles and 8-hour long car rides can be a sore, much to your easygoing phlegmatic frame. That's why our destination for this year's road trip installation is just over an hour's drive from the city.

Tanay is a beautiful municipality. It is not so far away for you to feel completely lost, and it is not too close, leaving your vehicle enough room to stretch its legs. It strikes the perfect balance between urban and rural; go further up and you'll get an unspoiled view of the majestic Sierra Madre, make your way down and you'll feel right at home with the presence of familiar establishments and town-dwellers up and about.



Kata Café

Whether you've already loaded up before or while on the road, nothing says "welcome to Tanay" better than good food. Along the thoroughfare (Manila East Road) leading to the municipal hall is Kata Café. It is a casual-dining place that serves breakfast, lunch, merienda, and dinner. The ambiance is nice, and completely unpretentious.

From the main road, a set of stairs will lead you down to where the dining area is. The hall is open, with no walls enclosing it, ambient light comes right from the sun, and the cool winds of Tanay waft through, all amounting to a place perfect for just chilling out. And also, there's a podium at the center of the hall for local acts to perform.

Kata Café Sizzling and Binalot
Manila East Road, Tanay, Rizal
470-0547

Bakasyunan Resort and Conference Center

After an hour of travel and a hearty meal, you would want to lay your bags down, freshen up, and probably sneak a quick nap before heading out again to explore. From Kata Café, you should take Sampaloc road. You will see a large expanse of land that is outlined by colourful flags. When you see an entrance headlined by a Bakasyunan signage, that's your cue: stop and enter.

Bakasyunan Resort and Conference Center is an all-in-one establishment that will keep you occupied for the whole day. From the parking area, you will be walking past a bootcamp-like course—perfect for team building or just horsing around—a mini-golf area, information center, cafeteria, artificial rock climbing wall, and a cliff pool en route to where the lodges are.



Once you have settled in, you can explore the many facilities the resort has to offer. There's a mud slide, private videoke rooms, ATVs, a basketball court, and so much more.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

Make sure your devices are fully juiced before heading out, because selfie-ism is everywhere. You need to fill your feeds with I'm-in-Tanay-better-be-jealous photo updates.

Bring a pair of sunglasses with you and slap on sunscreen, as your activities will involve soaking up a lot of sun.

Prepare a 5 peso coin for when you shower after taking a dip in the waters of Daranak falls.

Sleep early, rise early. Most of the sites to see look better in daylight, plus Tanay's really really dark after sunset.

At the Parola, take a boat ride to better appreciate the town of Tanay, plus you'll get a good look of the nearby town's windmill farm without having to actually travel there.

You may want to arrange trips with tricycle drivers. This will make going around a lot easier.

Clear your mind of everything related to work or study and just enjoy!

OTHER PLACES TO VISIT



Ten Cents to Heaven Leisure Camp

This is a place to escape to should you want to take a break from the bustle of the city. It boasts a scenic view of the Sierra Madre and Laguna De Bay, while keeping you tucked in cozy stone-covered lodges.

Lorenzo's Culinary Herb Garden

The establishment allows its customers to pick and harvest the ingredients for the meal that will be served to them from its pesticide-free garden of culinary, aromatic, and medical herbs and edible flowers.

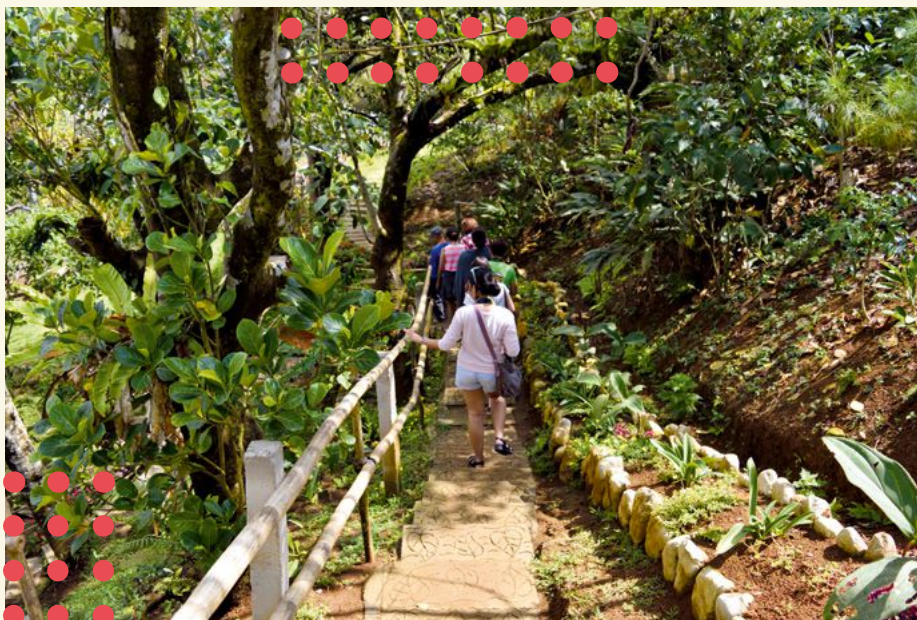
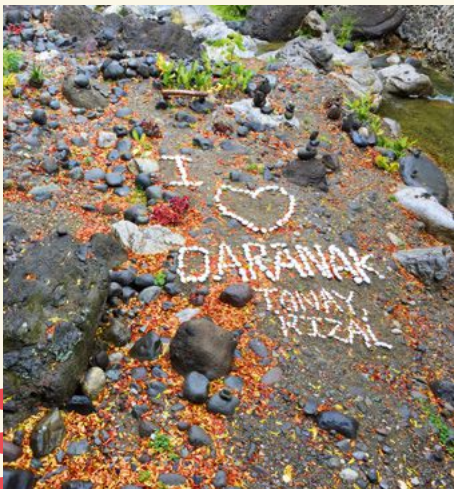
Daranak Falls

Though you might rather stay and exhaust the many amenities of Bakasyunan, you haven't experienced Tanay without seeing one of the humble town's flagship destinations.

Daranak is derived from indigenous words "dara" which means body of water and "danak" a term for bubble, as the water from the top falls it forms bubbles, thus the name. From the Masungi rock formations, water residue flows down through a 14-meter high cliff.

The cold Daranak waters contain lime, which explains the azure hue that tints it. You may want to bring floaters with you if you plan on taking a dip as the Daranak's swimming area goes from 4-feet to 30-feet. You wouldn't want to know what's down there, would you? But if you can't be bothered with bringing extra load, you can choose to rent life-jackets and donut-shaped floaters. There are also life guards stationed within the vicinity if safety is your concern.

This Tanay gem is open from Mondays to Sundays and opens at 0800AM and closes at 1700PM. The entrance fee for adults and children is PHP 50; picnic tables and sheds are available for use, at a cost.



Harahah Eco Park

For the untroubled person that you are, nature is a friend. It is an avenue for us to refresh our spirits and tune out chatter. The best way to enjoy this God-given gift is through a stroll into its bosom. Harahah Eco Park gives you just that.

After a cold refreshing swim at Daranak, you can continue your interaction with nature at this 16.2-hectare eco park. The attraction is divided into four stations, all of which can be explored through a path that consists of 5,500 steps. The Gardens and the Oasis are the first and second stops from the entrance. Its trail is decorated with an assortment of flowers and small ponds meant to make it appear as a resting haven. Fragrant blooms then escort you to the Grove. Here, you will be met with foliage and tall trees lining the trail. Past that is the Meadows. This is where you'll get a good look of the mountains and clouds hovering over it.

Parola

If you think your laid-back adventure stops at the area overlooking Laguna de Bay, you are wrong. Before going back to the reality that is the city, you must conclude your Tanay trip with a stopover at the Parola Lakeshore.

Unless you've been living under a rock, you'll know that Parola is the Filipino term for lighthouse. This tall structure is designed to emit light from a system lamps and lenses. It's located near waterways as its function is to serve as a navigational aid for ships and boats at night or and also to warn them if potential danger arises. Apart from the picturesque lake, you can climb up and take snaps of the once-functioning light house of the fisherfolk of Tanay. There is also a monument at the wharf meant to commemorate the Tanayños who lost their lives during typhoon Ondoy.



FOLLOW THE ROUTE

Stop by Kata Café on the way to Bakasyunan for a hearty meal.

From Kata Café, walk to the the public market terminal and take a tricycle to Bakasyunan worth PHP 160/4pax

To get to Daranak falls, take a tricycle ride at a cost of PHP 15. While you're there take a dip at the azure cool waters of Daranak.

Ask the tricycle driver to take you to Haranah Eco Park for a relaxing nature walk.

Once you're back to the town proper, ask for directions from the friendly villagers and walk a good 20 minutes to the Parola.



BAKASYUNAN

Resort and Conference Center

Is travel on your bucket list this summer? If your answer is yes, head over to Bakasyunan Resort and Conference Center in Tanay. As its name suggests, the resort is an ideal summer destination as it serves its visitors an experience perfect for unwinding, and amenities you might want, when you're looking to recharge.

The huge resort, which has been in operation for four years now, has been graded a Class A resort by the Department of Tourism. Backing this feat are outstanding facilities and beautiful landscapes that will certainly take your mind off the hustle and bustle of life in the city.

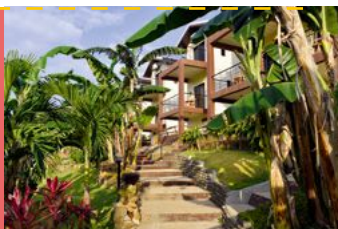
Since Tanay rests in the mountainous region of Rizal, you will be welcomed by refreshing sceneries and cool winds while

walking around Bakasyunan. Apart from splashing around in their large swimming pools with the view of the Sierra Madre, you'll never run out of activities to busy yourself with while checked-in at the resort. The amenities available for use include airsoft, horse-back and carabao riding, ATV, zipline, billiards, rappelling, mini-golf course, mud slide, team-building course, karaoke rooms, and several others.

The resort is also an ideal venue for company retreats, weddings, and other functions with its many accommodation offering. Why choose Bakasyunan? "The place speaks for itself," Mick Bondoc, operations manager of Bakasyunan Resort and Conference Center, Tanay expressed.

Present this issue of Gadgets Magazine at Bakasyunan and get 40% discount on room accommodations!

Valid only on April-June 2015 during weekdays (Sunday-Thursday) and non-holidays only.



Bakasyunan Resort and Conference Center, Tanay
(02) 881-4515/579-5818/0998-994-2514
<http://www.bakasyunanresorttanay.com/>





PRANJETTO HILLS Resort and Conference Center



Located smack-dab in the middle of the Sierra Madre Mountains, Pranjetto Hills is a dream getaway for nature lovers, with its sprawling mesas, lush forests, and a captivating view of the mountain range. If you've frequented Baguio in the past, you'll find yourself in familiar territory here as the resort's ups and downs, pine trees, foggy mornings, and the exquisite sunrise are as beautiful as the Cordilleras, if not more so. The whole area exudes a peaceful and quiet atmosphere for a perfectly relaxing stay.

It boasts of various facilities including an Olympic-size swimming pool, picnic grounds, zip lines, rappelling, wall climbing, ATVs, and a paintball arena, as well as various function rooms and a

conference hall, making Pranjetto fit for anything from family outings, to corporate functions, to team building, and even garden parties.

As for accommodations, they have rooms and cottages fit for any budget. Ordinary rooms good for four people cost a hair over PHP 3,100 per night inclusive of breakfast and access to the pools, while villas and rest house rooms go for PHP 4,500 for four people, including breakfast and pool access. Meanwhile, all the other activities have ticket prices ranging from PHP 100 to PHP 300. They also offer pilgrimage tours to Regina RICA with costs inclusive of a lunch meal, two snacks, and use of their swimming pools.



Pranjetto Hills Resort and Conference Center
Sitio Mayagay, Barangay Sampaloc, Tanay, Rizal
401-5995|994-3622|0949-406-5776|0917-598-9119
info@pranjettohills.com|pranjettohillsresort@gmail.com

Get more out of your Ride



GO EASY ON THE PEDALS

Everyday driving is not a race. It's better to get to where you're going safely and efficiently. And by efficiently, we mean not pushing your vehicle too hard. Rapid acceleration and braking go together, and it's a pair of habits to be avoided, especially since it compromises road safety and burns your gas quickly.

DON'T STAY IDLE FOR TOO LONG

An idling vehicle is a waste of resources and a contributor of harmful gases. If you'll be waiting at a curb or at a parking slot for more than a few minutes, it's better to kill the engine. In fact, a better way to spend this time is to get down and stretch, or check your vehicle's vitals like oil levels, coolant levels, and tire pressure.

USE LOW ROLLING RESISTANCE TIRES

What are low rolling resistance tires? In recent years, major developments in tire technology were focused on making tires that can lower a vehicle's fuel consumption. Low rolling resistance is the attribute that enables this. A tire that has low rolling resistance provides maximum efficiency and minimum energy loss in the transfer of force from the engine to the road. Thus, a tire with low rolling resistance gets more fuel mileage compared to conventional tires.

BURN LESS FUEL FROM POINT A TO POINT B

Bridgestone Ecopia's fuel-saving Low Rolling Resistance technology is comprised of the many aspects that make up the tire. From the proprietary formula of the rubber used, the varying structural rigidity of the areas of the tire, all the way to the design of the tire grooves, each aspect is designed to lower rolling resistance and maximize fuel efficiency. In actual performance, the Ecopia tire has been tested by the Automotive Association of the Philippines to save up to PHP 9.00 per liter of fuel.

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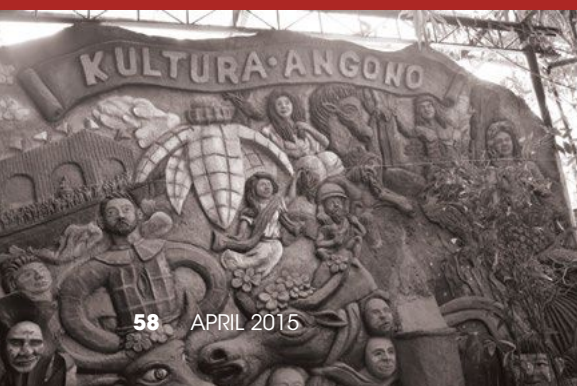
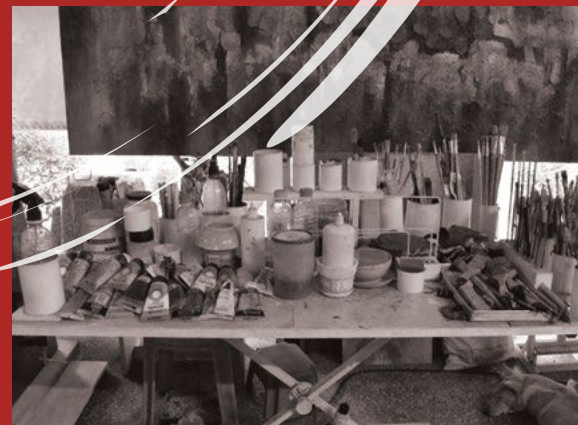
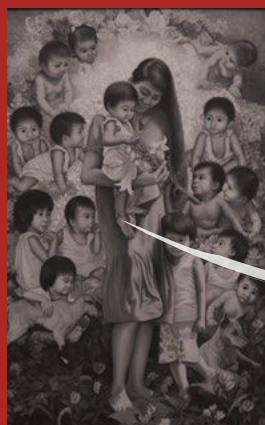
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ANGONO:

A Haven for Artists

Words and Interviews by Mia Carisse Barientos and Chris Noel Hidalgo
Photos by Team Gadgets

While museums and art galleries in Manila are quite few and far in between, you can find them not ten minutes away from each other in the municipality of Angono. The hometown of National Artist for Visual Arts Carlos "Botong" Francisco, people here are born with pencils, brushes, and chisels in their hands, ready to give your eyes a visual treat you won't find anywhere else. The *Gadgets* team toured some of Angono's most popular aesthetic hubs and sat down with the people who make art happen. Long story short: craving art? Head to Angono.

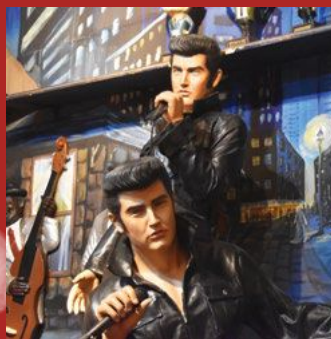
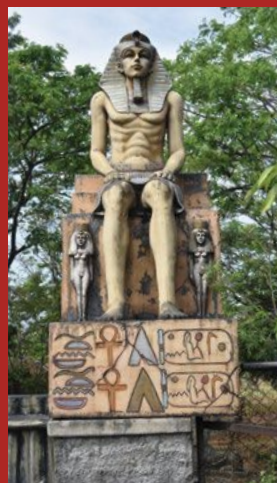


YAB DESIGN

Situated on an 11-hectare facility, Yab Design specializes in manufacturing polyester resin items and statues. Their showroom is filled to the brim with life-sized animal figures, people, masks, furniture, and even icons such as Mr. Bean, Santa Claus, and Elvis Presley. The giants are brought to life by people from Angono who are recognized by management for their skill and mastery of the craft.

According to Frans Van Geest, Yab Design product consultant, they have as many as 4,000 molds used to make statues that are patronized all over the world, with customers and wholesalers originating from the United States all the way down under to Australia.

"I think they would be as surprised as our customers and wholesalers have been when they first visited the site. The showroom is very massive given how many items there are on display."

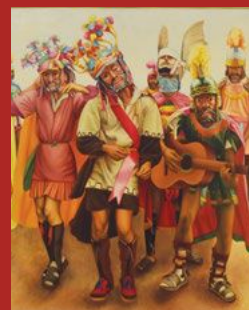


BLANCO FAMILY MUSEUM

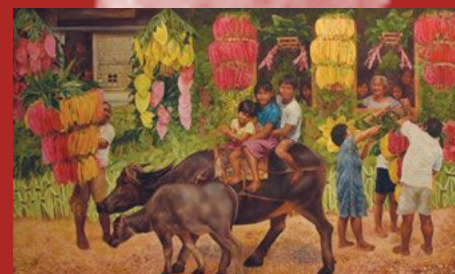


Artists are made, no doubt, but in the case of the Blancos, being a painter is a calling firmly rooted in their lineage—they have painter-sculptor ancestors as far back as the 1800s! Though they picked up the brush at different ages, the youngest being 11 months and the oldest being 48 years, their works have been instant classics and are now showcased in their Family Museum, founded by their patriarch Jose "Pitok" Blanco.

The museum, through its current curator, Michael Blanco, is also making an extra effort to cultivate Angono's budding artists. The Blancos have constructed the Blanco Family Academy, a standard school with levels from preschool to high school and specialized art subjects per grade; free summer workshops; and opening their doors every weekend to the artists in the visual, performing, and literary arts.



"Maraming nagdadaan na challenges sa buhay natin na minsan, igigiveup mo 'yung pagiging artist mo. Sa visual arts, hindi naman talaga ang hinahabol mo diyan ay 'yung pera o financial benefits, kundi 'yung maiexpress mo 'yung sarili mo, kung ano 'yung nararamdaman mo sa paligid mo, at kung ano 'yung pananaw mo."



BALAW BALAW SPECIALTY RESTAURANT

A restaurant offering a feast for both the palette and the eyes, Balaw Balaw is an establishment brought to existence by one man's love for food and the arts. Its late founder, Perdigon Vocalan, began the restaurant's services in 1983 and added the gallery a short time later. Today, it has already played host to some VIPs, the most notable of which is former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Balaw Balaw's dining supervisor and resident artist Dennis Almazar says the restaurant prides itself in serving traditional Filipino food, exotic goodies such as crocodile, *uok* (coconut worm), and herbal leaves such as *ashitaba*, *bougainvillea*, and *alagaw*. In fact, the restaurant was featured in the Travel Channel's *Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern*.

"Iniimbitahan ko po kayo dito na subukan ang aming pagkain dito sa Balaw Balaw Restaurant at tiyak kayo'y masisiyahan. Bukod sa aming restaurant, meron din kaming art gallery na may mga painting ng iba't-ibang artists from Rizal."



NEMIRANDA ART GALLERY & CAFE



The paintings and sculptures of Nemesio "Nemi" Miranda, Jr., widely known as Nemiranda, are proudly displayed in this house/gallery/café designed by the man himself. Though he faced quite a few rough patches over the course of his passion, he was able to make being a full-time artist work, never having been regularly employed in his 45-year career.

It took him nine years before he was able to put up his first one man show, and from then on, he has continually made his mark in the country's art scene. Some of his most famous works include the mural depicting the history of EDSA 1 and 2 at the EDSA Shrine, and the 175-meter long mural of the Philippine Army's history in Fort Bonifacio.

"Economically, financially, hindi luxurious. For artists like us, it's more of a passion. You don't think of the monetary reward. You only think of the enjoyment you experience. I never had a second choice. This is what I want. This is where I'm happy. This is what I want to be. *All my life, ginagawa ko lang 'to na naglalaro.* I never even think that it's work for me."



THE HOME OF CARLOS "BOTONG" V. FRANCISCO



You may remember hearing his name in the past; his work may even be familiar thanks to humanities and art classes, but who is Botong Francisco? The short answer is that he is a National Artist, and one of the greatest muralists to have ever picked up a brush.

Botong Francisco is well-known for his paintings that depict the Philippines' culture and traditions, some with folkloric elements captured in canvasses or walls.

Entering the house, knowing that was a site in which he made real some of the greatest works of Filipino art, one is overcome by an overwhelming sense of admiration and awe. While much of the house has been renovated, the area where Botong Francisco used to work was preserved, to serve as the showroom for some of his belongings. His grandson, Totong Francisco, toured us, stopping from time to time to tell of his *Lolo's* great stories.

The studio houses Botong Francisco's old art mediums, such as his chair, easel, paint brushes, cameras, and several others. However, do take note that the workshop-turned museum no longer houses any of Botong's original works.

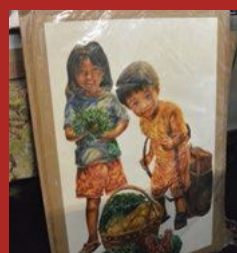
ORVILLE TIAMSON GALLERY

Just as we sat down for a quick chit chat, Orville was quick to explain the black and white-watercolor painted canvasses splayed on the table. He shared his current fascination with the medium, which ultimately ushered him back to analog. The reason behind this sudden inclination to watercolor is that he finds the current trend less exciting at the moment. From this, we knew straight away that Orville Tiamson was a game-changer. Not only is he a known painter, he is also a musician, biker, and transmedia artist rolled into one.

The studio and gallery we visited is where Tiamson does most of his works and serves as an annex for students from different schools in Angono to practice visual art.

"Artists are responsible for preserving and spreading awareness of the arts." He further stressed that with the proliferation of technology, and the digital artistry tools therein lies, today's generation are bound to forget and thrust aside its origins. That is why when he conducts workshops, he gives an overview and introduces several Filipino *maestro's* who brought art in the Philippines to light. The reason behind this is his desire for the tradition and culture in the arts to live on.

Apart from a first-hand view of his works, visitors can also see him in action as well as listen to him discuss the basics of painting. Tiamson also added that his interactive demo discussions most of the time end up in fun jam sessions.



The all-new Nissan NP300 Navara takes on the Sand Dunes of Paoay

Words and Photos by Mika Fernandez-David | Additional Photos by Nissan Press

In what may have been a record of sorts, Nissan Philippines Inc. (NPI) flew seventy journalists from all over the country to the province of Ilocos Norte, to experience driving their newest tough, smart truck.

The 12th generation Navara is NPI's entry to the highly competitive truck wars, whose segment has grown exponentially because of the car-like comfort and amenities available in the latest models. It is no longer enough for pickups to be just capable workhorses, as customers are now looking for versatile vehicles that can be used for both work and play.



The first part of the day's activity was a fuel economy run from the Plaza del Norte Hotel and Convention Center, to the wind farm in Baguio, and finally to the gasoline station behind the Paoay Church. While it was called a fuel economy run, we were told to drive like we normally would, to test the Navara's practical fuel economy. The route was approximately 140 kilometers long, and at the end of the day, the average consumption of the trucks were from 16-18 kilometers per liter, which was pretty good for the size of the truck.

The second, and most awaited part of the day was the sessions at the La Paz Sand Dunes where ten 2.5L 4x4 VL 7AT units were waiting. For this activity, Nissan had professional off-roaders present to serve as marshals and guides for everyone who wanted to play in the sand. Those who didn't drive were able to ride shotgun, as well as try their hand at sand boarding.

The macho-looking NP300 Navara showcases a sportier style, while still staying true to Nissan's design philosophy. It features a more pronounced beltline, and boomerang-shaped LED daylight running headlamps that complement the brand's V-Motion signature design that is reflected from the grille to the hood.

The all-new NP300 Navara is available in seven trim levels, all powered by the brand's YD25 engine, paired with either 6-speed manual or 7-speed automatic gearboxes. The powerplant is a new generation 2.5-liter DOHC in-line 4-cylinder Variable Geometry System (VGS) turbocharger with intercooler engine that promises the best output for its displacement. The 4x4 variant offer up to 190 Ps @3600rpm and maximum torque of 450Nm @2000rpm, while the 4x2 variant produces 163Ps @3600rpm and 403Nm @2000rpm.

Similar to the ones that are available to the Australian market, the units available in the Philippines use a full-length fully boxed ladder frame that adds torsional stiffness, and a rigid 5-link coil suspension that provides better ride comfort.

Like the Altima, Sylphy and X-Trail, the NP300 Navara is fitted with their NASA-inspired Zero Gravity Seat technology that reduces driver and passenger fatigue by evenly distributing body pressure on the seating surface. Its instrument panel is straight forward, and easy to read in whatever lighting condition. Entertainment is courtesy of a 6-speaker infotainment system that also serves as the display for the rear backup camera. The system is CD, MP3, and iPod compatible, and has Bluetooth connectivity for mobile devices. The higher trim levels of the Navara are equipped with push button ignition, and audio and telephony controls on the steering wheel.

Safety features include Vehicle Dynamic Control (VDC), Active Brake Limited Slip (ABLS), Hill Start Assist (HSA), Hill Descent Control (HDC), and Traction Control System (TCS).



"Nissan pickups are not just vehicles, they are the lifeblood of communities, and we are catering to that need by improving the much-loved pickup. With over 8-years of heritage, providing technologies come as natural as possible. Nissan lives on the promise of providing innovation that excites and that's what we have been doing." - Toti Zara, NPI President and Managing Director

2015 Isuzu Crosswind drive to Baler

Words by Mika Fernandez-David

After the successful release of the 2015 Crosswind in early February, Isuzu Philippines Corporation (IPC) brought media friends to Baler, Aurora, to give us a chance to stretch the vehicle's legs on the long road to the surfing capital, and experience the tough, active, and sporty lifestyle of a Crosswind owner.



Traveling over 237 kilometers from the meeting place in Quezon City, the trip took about seven hours of leisurely driving with multiple stops on the way. The road to Baler is not an easy one. With its mix of city and urban driving, plus a variety of road conditions, the land trip is not only long, but also tricky. After the long, easy stretch that is NLEX and SCTEX, we entered the busy roads of Nueva Ecija that eventually led to the winding mountain roads in Pantabangan.

Our convoy was composed of five Crosswinds of varied levels of trim. The ones assigned to the fully-loaded Sportivos had it easy with all the creature comforts available to them. Despite being assigned a "lowly" XT variant for the trip, our ride kept pace and was able to navigate the roads with ease and comfort for both the driver and the passengers. After the long drive, welcoming waves of the Pacific Ocean greeted us when we touched down at the Costa Pacifica resort, where we would be spending the night.

The following day, our trip back to Manila took a bit longer because of numerous shopping stops made along the way. By this time, our third row seats were already folded up to accommodate our luggage, plus all of our purchases that ranged from full grown plants, to hammocks, to wooden stools, and assorted food stuff.

WHAT'S NEW?

The 2015 Crosswind's signature color is hunter green—a color that IPC president Nobuo Izumina developed in close cooperation with their paint supplier. It features a new grille, but still maintains Isuzu's signature 6-hole front that is a key feature found in all Isuzu vehicles. Another thing you might not have noticed is its updated Crosswind logo.

GOING STRONG

There's a reason why the Crosswind marque is still going strong even after almost 15 years

of existence, with over 100,000 units sold. The Crosswind is proudly Filipino-made. It's assembled in the IPC plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, which provides jobs for thousands of Pinoys who live in and around the area. Every feature is designed with the Philippine market in mind, with different trim levels available to address specific needs of the diverse segments. Known for its durability, low cost of ownership, and great value proposition, the Crosswind continues to be the most favored MPC/AUV in the market that transitions seamlessly from work to play.

The 2015 Isuzu Crosswind is available in the following 7 trims : Sportivo-X A/T and M/T; XUV A/T; XT M/T; XL M/T; and XS M/T. Prices start at PHP 794,000.



Volkswagen concludes Third Eco Fun Run

Sponsored by Volkswagen Philippines, 18 members of the motoring media went to Magalang, Pampanga for the third leg of the Eco Fun Run, a fuel economy test to prove the merits of VW's Turbocharged Direct Injection (TDI) engine technology. It was held in partnership with Pilipinas Shell Petroleum.

Taking the length of EDSA and NLEX all the way to Abe's Farm at the foot of Mount Arayat, the convoy of three Tiguan SUVs, three Touran MPVs, and three Polo sedans ran more than 146 kilometers. At the end, each car's fuel mileage was computed to determine the best drivers in the test.

Previous Eco Fun Runs were held last October and November 2014, ending at Cintai by Corito's Garden in Lipa City. Each leg saw different media drivers as to avoid vehicle familiarity as well as put the nameplates through different driving styles.

For the Polo Notch 1.6 M/T group, Wee Gamboa and Raul Promeda of Motoring Today/Auto Focus TV recorded a best 26.54km/l performance. Behind them was Ruel Asuncion and Jemil Bautista from DriveTV with 26.45km/l; and Christopher Kho and Charles Buban from AutoDeal/TimeAttackManila/Philippine Daily Inquirer with 22.90km/l. The Touran 2.0 DSG batch was led by Steven Yu

and Jerel Fajardo from Malaya/CI Magazine with a 22.85km/l result. In second were Stephanie Asi and Elaine Lara from Top Gear Magazine with 20.57km/l; and third were Tet Andolong and Aris Ilagan from Business Mirror/Graphic Magazine/Manila Bulletin with 19.67km/l.

Brent Co and Martin Aguilar from AutoIndustriya topped the Tiguan 2.0 A/T class with 17.86km/l; Lester Dizon and Shawie Dizon from PowerWheels Magazine/YahooPH came in second as they drove 17.81km/l; and Aries Espinosa and Ira Panganiban from Business World/Auto Car Magazine came in third with 17.01km/l.

The results were verified by Mark Ponce from Clean Air Asia, a non-government organization advocating better air quality management. As expected, Volkswagen Philippines has yet again proven that fuel economy and eco-friendliness is a key feature of every VW nameplate, whether it be diesel or gasoline-fueled.

The Volkswagen Eco Fun Run will hold a final showdown this summer pitting all the winners of every leg against each other to see who can take a VW vehicle further than everybody else.



Bridgestone welcomes summer with 3+1 deal

Summer's here! Time to get in your car or SUV, and take friends and family for a scenic road trip. Long holidays, clear blue skies, and sunny days make it more enjoyable to cruise down long roads or off-the-beaten paths, taking in all the sights, sounds, and the fresh air of the vast countryside, as you go for a long drive! It's time to fill your schedule with many exciting journeys, but whatever summer adventure you choose, the roadworthiness of your tires should always be a priority.

Philippine Allied Enterprises Corporation (PAEC), exclusive distributor of Bridgestone, the world's best-selling tire brand, has just announced their Red-Hot Summer Deal promo. From March 1 to April 31, motorists can buy three (3) Bridgestone tires of any type from their favorite tire dealers, and get the fourth tire of the same type, for free. Choose from the fuel-saving Ecopia, the off-road-conquering Dueler, the track-tested Potenza, and the high-performance Turanza. All of Bridgestone's tires are made using the most advanced tire manufacturing techniques, ensuring their products are safe, durable, and environment-friendly.

Visit your nearest Bridgestone dealer now!

SUZUKI **Fi** FUEL INJECTION

THE SUZUKI FI TECHNOLOGY

Fuel Injection is a system for admitting fuel into an internal combustion engine which atomizes the fuel by forcibly pumping it through a small nozzle under high pressure, unlike in a carburetor which relies on suction created by intake air accelerated through a tube to draw the fuel into the airstream.

WHY CHOOSE SUZUKI FI

☒ FUEL EFFICIENCY AT HIGH RUNNING PERFORMANCE

☒ AUTOMATIC RESPONSE

☒ EASY MAINTENANCE

☒ ENVIRONMENT FRIENDLY

EXPERIENCE MORE POWER!

MAX POWER
**6.9kw@
7,500rpm**



113cc Engine

GET MORE SAVINGS

ANNUAL SAVINGS

P9,560

on gas consumption



27,375 TOTAL KM
63
KM/LITER
P23,899
ANNUAL FUEL COST
Based on 1987
and 1994 @ P145.00/liter

27,375 TOTAL KM
45
KM/LITER
P33,459
ANNUAL FUEL COST

Internal comparative study versus carburetor.

SUZUKI **Fi** FUEL INJECTION

FI COMPONENTS

SUZUKI Fi MODELS



SHOOTER **Fi**



RAIDER **Fi**



ENGINE CONTROL MODULE (ECM)

The brain of the Fi motorcycle unit as it component measures of fuel based on the signals sent by the sensors.



FUEL INJECTOR

This serves as nozzle that controls the fuel dependent on the signals sent by the sensor and the instruction given by the ECM.



SENSORS

The nerves that send signals to the brain or the ECM.

1. Throttle Position Sensor - monitors the throttle activity.
2. Intake Air Pressure Sensor - monitors the atmospheric condition of the air pressure.
3. Intake Air Temperature Sensor - monitors the atmospheric condition of the air temperature.

SUZUKI **POUND for POUND** PROMO



SUZUKI FI FUEL INJECTION

RAIDER *FI*

 **SUZUKI**



SUZUKI HELMET + SPALDING
SPORTS WATCH

Actual colors of promo items may vary based on availability.

SUZUKI **POUND for POUND** PROMO



Smash **115.**

 **SUZUKI**



SUZUKI HELMET + SUZUKI JACKET

Actual colors of promo items may vary based on availability.

SUZUKI **POUND for POUND** PROMO



SUZUKI FF FUEL INJECTION

SHOOTER
FF

 **SUZUKI**



SUZUKI HELMET + SUZUKI JACKET

Actual colors of promo items may vary based on availability.

SMDI SUZUKI 3S SHOP GRAND OPENING IN ILOILO CITY!



Committed to Create a Wow this year, Suzuki recently opened its 31st and second largest 3S shop in the country in the progressive province of Iloilo. The shop is considered as the biggest in the Panay Region and is founded in partnership with Solid Motorcycle Distributors, Inc. (SMDI)



Solid Motorcycle Distributors, Inc.
Authorized Dealer

Brgy. M.V. Hechanova, Jaro, Iloilo City

The grand opening was graced by Ret. Chief Justice Reynato Puno who headed the Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies.



CONGRATULATIONS!



The Suzuki FI Ladies



Celebrating friendship and good business relationship - Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki, President of Suzuki Philippines and Mr. Pablo Chu, President of Solid Motorcycle Distributors, Inc.



SMDI Suzuki 3S Shop Iloilo has a huge offering that will create a WOW in terms of customer satisfaction!



Smash 115 Module Display



Skydrive 125 Module Display



Fi Module Display



Suzuki Information corner



Reception corner



Service Area

Come and visit us at Brgy. M.V. Hechanova, Jaro, Iloilo City!



"We are Team Suzuki SMDI 3S Shop and we will create a WOW by giving you the best customer service"

Get a FREE Suzuki Fi lanyard when you visit the store and present this magazine issue!



The shop released Suzuki motorcycles to their first customers



Suzuki to make racing scene comeback



The Suzuki GSX-RR in MotoGP 2015

The idea for the GSX-RR was conceived in 2012 as Suzuki aimed to make a machine that will be the envy in the MotoGP class. It boasts a brand new in-line four-cylinder engine that brings a strong, flexible engine character, fuel efficiency, and durability at a high level. The frame has a form that keeps its width slim for both maneuverability and aerodynamic performance, along with an optimized body strength and weight balance.

The end product is a highly competitive MotoGP machine that can bring out the straightforward maneuverability developed over the years with the GSX-R.

Team Suzuki is captained by renowned Davide Brivio with Spanish riders Espargaro and Viñales recruited to spearhead Suzuki's efforts on track.

Challenge at the ARRC

With the Japanese giant's imminent comeback to MotoGP, Suzuki also confirmed the launch of its own Asian series to be conducted at the same time with the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC). The new series—aptly named the Suzuki Asian Challenge—will run on a single-make Suzuki Raider R150 and is open to all Asian riders.

The Suzuki Asian Challenge will be the foundation towards a racing programme that seeks to discover and train riders from the Asian region.

"Suzuki's return to the MotoGP in 2015 has been well received by fans. This collaboration with the Asia Road Racing Championship was the result of our intention to also train up more Asian talents who may one day race for Suzuki in the MotoGP. As such, the Suzuki Asian Challenge will be a step-by-step progression for young hopeful riders from around the Asian region," said Motoo Murakami, managing director for motorcycle operations PT Suzuki Indomobil sales.

Suzuki is looking to retake the motorcycle racing scene as it debuts the new GSX-RR in MotoGP's racetrack. Backed by very capable team riders in an improved team structure, the brand not only looks to dominate the world's hottest racing event, but it also seeks to establish its place at the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC).



The promising program will be managed by Yukio Kagayama who has abundant experience in MotoGP, World Superbike, World Endurance, and the Japanese Championship both as a rider and as team manager and owner.

Besides leading the Suzuki Asian Challenge, Kagayama will also be mentoring a team in the SuperSports 600cc category—Team Suzuki Asia Kagayama. The team will play an essential role in Suzuki's talent building program as it is pegged to be the next step-up for graduates of the Suzuki Asian Challenge towards high cc racing.

Representatives from Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia, and the Philippines will compete with each other to find out who the best driver in the region is. In the Philippines, Suzuki will pick the top racers from its pool of strong riders from its Satellite Teams to be sent to the 5-leg Suzuki Asian Challenge in different parts of Asia.



Toyota launches the New Camry and Camry S

Toyota has just launched the update to their top-tier luxury sedan, the Camry. The new Camry still features class-leading creature comforts, quality upholstery, and all the conveniences expected of the marque, but with a more aggressive stance. It has also been equipped with a high-definition multi-information display, giving the driver a better view, and more information that is easily readable day or night. The 2015 Camry is also available in two interior colors: flaxen/black (for 2.5 V and G) or black (for the 3.5 V6).

The 7th generation Camry gives customers all the power they have always expected from this sedan. With either a 2.5 liter, 4 cylinder 16-valve Dual VVT-i engine, Toyota's premium sedan gives a maximum power output of 204kW @ 6200 rpm, and a maximum 346Nm of torque @ 4700 rpm. The engine is mated to a 6-speed sequential automatic transmission on all variants. Its Electric Power Steering and re-tuned suspension gives the vehicle a solid steering feel, and excellent response.

In addition to the new Camry, Toyota has also released the new Camry S, a sportier, more driver-oriented variant that combines comfort and luxury, with a driving experience unlike any other. This configuration is an even greater pleasure to drive, thanks to both a sportier appearance, and an exclusive sequential paddle shifter. It also

comes with 5-spoke 17-inch alloy wheels, and dual exhaust tailpipes with diffuser for excellent performance. Designed with owner-driven customers in mind, the Camry S has sporty leather seats with red stitching, and a finely crafted leather steering wheel, plus a sports brake pedal for better performance driving.

The new Camry is available with a 3.5V6 engine with automatic transmission at PHP 2,128,000; and in 2.5V AT at PHP 1,745,000. The Camry S is available in two configurations: the 2.5S AT, at PHP 1,645,000 and 2.5G AT at PHP 1,511,000.



Mitsubishi launches all-new Strada

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. (MMPC) is not to be left behind in the country's truck wars, and the 5th generation Strada, the company's latest bid in the pickup segment, has all the bells and whistles of a sure-fire contender.

Stradas to be deployed in the Philippines are manufactured by Mitsubishi Motors Thailand and will come in six variants—two wheel drive (2WD): GL 4x2 base model Manual Transmission (MT), GLX 4x2 MT, and GLX V 4x2 Automatic Transmission (AT); and four wheel drive (4WD): GL 4x4 base model MT, GLS V 4x4 MT, and GLS Sport V 4x4 AT. These retain sophisticated yet burly body contours in a variety of colors, including quartz brown metallic, impulse blue metallic, earth green metallic, rosita red, virgil gray, sterling silver metallic, polar white, savanna white, and pyrenease black.

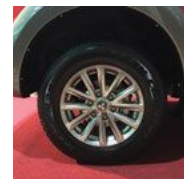
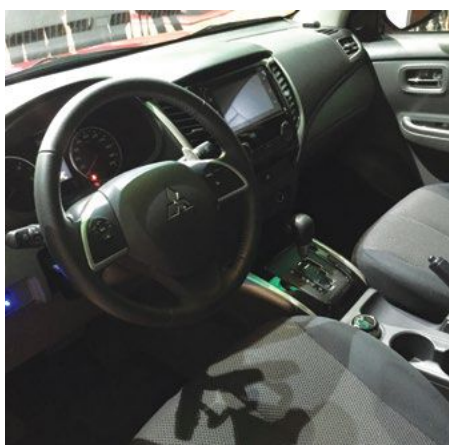
The VGT variants are run by a 2.5L 4 in-line 16-Valve DOHC Turbocharged and Intercooled Common Rail Direct Injection Diesel engine capable of a 178Ps power output @ 4000rpm and

400Nm of torque @ 2000rpm. The top of the line GLS Sport V is further equipped with an electronic dial of the Super Select 4WD-II giving it superior all-terrain performance and handling with a simple turn of the knob.

Meanwhile, the 4x2 GL MT, GLX MT, and the 4x4 GL MT will have a slightly tamer power plant producing 136Ps @ 4000rpm and 324Nm of pull @ 2000rpm.

The Strada's launch also saw the introduction of new MMPC president and CEO Yoshiaki Kato, who will be taking over as Hikosaburo Shibata returns to Japan.

Prices for the all-new Mitsubishi Strada are as follows: 2.5 GL 4x2 MT for PHP 950,000; Strada 2.5 GLX 4x2 MT for PHP 1,058,000; Strada 2.5 GLX V 4x2 AT for PHP 1,158,000; Strada 2.5 GL MT for PHP 1,125,000; Strada 2.5 GLS V 4x4 MT for PHP 1,320,000 ; and Strada 2.5 GLS Sport V 4x4 AT for PHP 1,440,000.



All-new Volkswagen Golf GTI launched in the Philippines

Just like fine wine, classic vehicles just get better as time passes. A prime example of graceful ageing is the 40-year old Volkswagen Golf that has won many honors throughout its existence, including being declared as the 1992 and 2013 European Car of the Year, 2013 World Car of the Year, and 2013-2014 Car of the Year Japan.

Debuted with the 1976 first-generation VW Golf, the Grand Tourer Injection, otherwise known as the GTI, is now on its seventh reincarnation, and as always, it's the sportiest among its VW sports car siblings. It's aesthetically imposing, with 18-inch Austin alloy wheels, bumpers, grille, tail lamps, spoiler, dual tailpipes, Bi-Xenon headlamps with daytime running lights (DRL), and dynamic headlamp control marking its GTI heritage.

Inside are GTI premium sport seats with "Clark" material, GTI steering wheel with paddle shifts, GTI shift knob, stainless steel pedals, scuff plates, trim, keyless-go entry/exit with push start, interior ambient lighting, and a climatronic 2-zone air-conditioning system.

Under its hood is a 2.0L turbocharged stratified injection engine capable of outing 220Ps @ 4500-6200rpm and 350Nm of torque @ 1500-4400rpm. The power plant is mated to a 6-speed dual shift transmission and sports suspension.

All that power is balanced by top-notch safety features, including: Electronic Stability Program (ESP), Anti-Slip Regulation (ASR), Electronic Differential Lock (EDL) with XDS plus technology, engine drag torque control (MSR), electronic parking brake with auto hold, rear assist rear view camera with 8-channel park distance control, driver alert system, and airbags all around the cabin (driver, passenger, driver knee, front, side, and curtain).

"The Golf GTI is indeed the sports car with true style and performance because it is THE GTI. It is the perfect car for performance seekers looking for fun and excitement," said John Philip Orbeta, president and chief executive officer of VW Philippines.

The all-new Volkswagen Golf GTI carries a PHP 2,290,000 price tag and colors oryx white pearl, tornado red, night blue, limestone grey, and deep black pearl.



Honda launches all-new Odyssey minivan



Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) successfully launched the all-new Honda Odyssey minivan last March 3, 2015, in One Esplanade, Pasay City. Unlike the previous model that was launched in the Philippines in 2012 that was made for and shipped from the US, this variant is made in Japan, with specs tailored for the Asian market. No less than HCPI president and general manager Toshio Kuwahara presented the Odyssey to the audience present at the launch.

The all-new Honda Odyssey is the first vehicle in the Philippine lineup to be equipped with both a Honda Earth Dreams Technology 2.4-liter, DOHC i-VTEC 4-cylinder engine and Continuous Variable Transmission (CVT with 7-speed paddle shifter).

Earth Dreams Technology is a next generation set of technological advancements that enhances the engine to greatly improve both fuel efficiency and driving performance. It is also equipped with the Eco Assist System, which consists of the ECON mode and the Eco coaching ambient light that promotes a more fuel-efficient driving habit. To further help in realizing improved fuel efficiency, the All New Odyssey boasts of a first in its class Idle-Stop System which automatically shuts off the engine when the vehicle comes

to a complete stop, depending on the driver operation, environment inside and outside the vehicle, and vehicle condition.

The JDM Honda Odyssey's exterior design was based on the "Solid Streamline" concept with an ultra-low platform that results in a sedan-like stance with low floor for better accessibility. The incorporation of LED dual projector type headlights, LED daytime running lights, LED tail lamps complete the all-new Odyssey's stylish yet commanding presence on the road.

Although noticeably smaller than the American version, the all-new Odyssey can accommodate seven passengers comfortably with generous head, elbow, and legroom. The interior design is dark and luxurious, with elegant appointments and high-end material. It is fitted with Captain Cradle Seats with Ottomans in the second row, and the third row has a three-way split reclining structure that allows the individual passengers to adjust their backrests to their liking. For added versatility, the third row seats also folds flat to accommodate more cargo. Incidentally, this configuration also allows the captain seats to slide backwards to give the passengers limousine-like space (READ: like a boss). The all-new Odyssey is also equipped with a seven-inch touch screen display audio with navigation system, as well as a roof-mounted nine-inch rear entertainment system with HDMI port and DVD player.

Driver comforts include: Smart Key with Push Start System; 8-way power seat with armrest; seven-inch touch screen display with info such as fuel consumption, trip computer, hands-free telephone (HFT) and audio streaming via Bluetooth connectivity; built-in navigation system; steering wheel-mounted controls for audio and Bluetooth HFT; automatic air-conditioning system; as well as USB and HDMI ports. The all-new Odyssey is equipped with a multi-view

camera system that consists of four wide-angle cameras that are located around the vehicle for a 360-degree view of the vehicle's surroundings. For added safety and convenience, it features Honda's Smart Parking Assist System that is capable of analyzing and detecting parking spaces where the luxury minivan can fit, as well as automatically steering the Odyssey into the parking space using the Electric Power Steering motor. Other safety features include: Blind Spot Information and Cross Traffic Monitor; Active Cornering Lights; Emergency Stop Signal (ESS); driver and passenger SRS airbags; side airbags; side curtain airbags; Anti-lock Braking System (ABS) with Electronic Brake-force Distribution (EBD); Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA); and Hill Start Assist (HSA).

Pricing and Colors

The all-new Odyssey is available at an introductory price of PHP 2,298,000. For those who prefer a sportier look—a MUGEN sport package, which includes genuine MUGEN front sports grille, front lower grille, wing spoiler, door visor, and luggage mat, can be installed for only PHP 91,200. Alternately, the Modulo Executive package—composed of a fender garnish, door mirror garnish, rear license garnish, cargo net, and tray—is also available and retails for PHP 21,700. This package will be given for free to customers who will buy the all-new Odyssey until March 31, 2015.

The all-new Odyssey is readily available in 3 sophisticated colors: premium twinkle black pearl (plus P20,000); white orchid pearl (plus PHP 20,000); and modern steel metallic. Other colors available by order are glamorous mauve pearl, Super platinum metallic, carnelian red pearl, and crystal black pearl, however, we were told that units with special colors would take around three months to arrive from Japan.

Honda looking to develop new riders

While it seems that most of the younger generation are more active in their social life—hanging out at coffee shops, malls, and social media sites—there are still quite a lot of kids out there who enjoy physical activities such as basketball, volleyball, soccer, and football. Some are even going after pursuits in the world of mobility and racing.

Honda Philippines, Inc. (HPI), ever dedicated to improving the country's motorcycling scene, are looking to cultivate the country's young riders through the Honda MTRT Racing Clinic. The school aims to instill the proper motorcycle knowhow and skills to these children for them to be molded into skilled and proper riders. The Honda MTRT Racing Clinic is a reflection of Honda's commitment to breeding and supporting riders until they are ready to go into the world of professional racing. Riders enrolled in the program will be working closely with Honda's most famous youngsters namely, Koko Masaharu Tadachi, McKinley Kyle Paz, Justinne Bethany Tolentino, Robert Matthew Ramos, and Gian Carlo Mauricio.

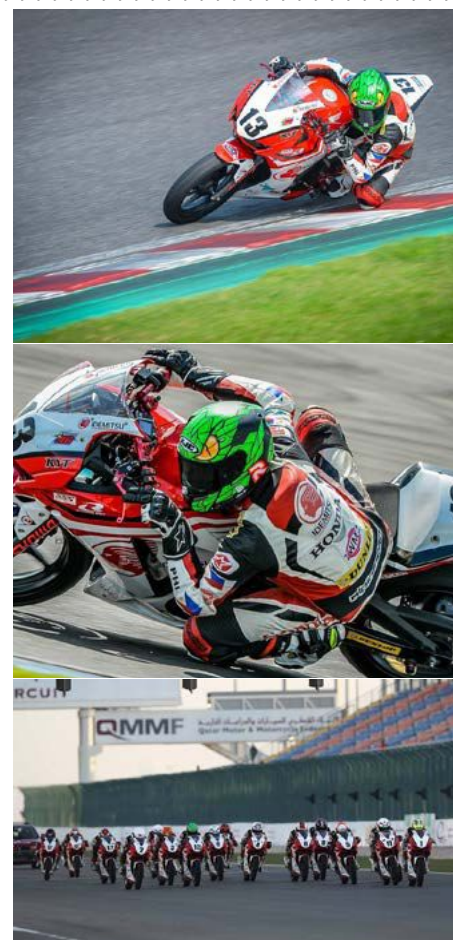
Not only will the closeness in age ensure a smooth teacher-student relationship, but it will also serve to encourage others that one can enter racing

no matter how young or old they are, giving credence to Honda's battle cry: The Power of Dreams!



Honda's Koko Tadachi returns to racetrack

15-year-old Honda Philippines, Inc. (HPI) prodigy Koko Masaharu Tadachi will be back on his steed as he goes head to head with Asia's best motorcycle riders in the upcoming Asia Dream Cup. His matches can be caught live and in high-definition on Fox Sports Asia Network during the following times:



Koko Tadachi began his riding journey through the Honda MTRT Racing Clinic and he has been one of Honda's shining stars in the racing world; an embodiment of HPI's motto: The Power of Dreams!

Round	Date	Venue	Country
1	April 16 to 19	Sepang Int. Circuit	Malaysia
2	June 4 to 7	Sentul Int. Circuit	Indonesia
3	July 1 to 5	Suzuka Int. Circuit	Japan
4	August 27 to 30	Chang Int. Circuit	Thailand
5	September 30 to October 3	Losail Int. Circuit	Qatar
6	December 3 to 6	Chang Int. Circuit	Thailand

Ford Unveils New Ranger at 36th Bangkok International Motor Show

Words and Photos by Mika Fernandez-David

Ford Motor Company revealed the new Ford Ranger at the 36th Bangkok International Motor Show, one day ahead of the show's official opening. With media from all over the region in attendance, Ford ASEAN president Matt Bradley presented the latest iteration of their best-selling pickup truck. The updated Ranger has a new look and cutting edge technologies that were developed to help customers achieve more, making it better to serve both work and lifestyle needs.



"The new Ford Ranger brings a new level of comfort and refinement to its segment without compromising on the rugged capability that our customers demand. It represents a smarter kind of tough, and will help our customers to achieve more, whether at work or with their families." - Brett Wheatley, vice president, marketing, sales, and service, Ford Asia Pacific

The exterior of the Ranger now sports a more refined look but still maintains its tough, rugged appearance. The front fascia has been refreshed with a bold trapezoidal grille that is both aggressive and aerodynamic. The new grille connects seamlessly with the chiseled projector lamps, giving it a prominent horizontal line that emphasizes its width

and strong stance. Its new muscular hood reinforces its tough and capable stance.

"When we set out to improve upon the Ford Ranger, we knew we had our work cut out for us: The current Ranger is one of the toughest, most capable trucks out there. But thanks to our proud truck heritage and global expertise in the utility segment, we've made what was great even better, with a bold new look, improved efficiency, and a new level of refinement." - Richard Tilley, vehicle line director, Ford Asia Pacific

Inside, the Ranger sports a redesigned cockpit jewel-screen instrumentation, adding creature comforts to the tough workhorse. Located in the center stack is a SYNC 2 enabled, eight-inch

TFT display that controls entertainment and air conditioning, and also doubles as rear-view camera when in reverse. The dual TFT instrument cluster keeps relevant information available at a glance. Other creature comforts include Push-Button Start for higher trims, cargo bay lighting, a compartmentalized load box, and 240-volt, 150 Watt power socket that can charge a laptop for when working on the go.

"When you look at how our customers use their vehicles, it's important that a Ranger looks and functions as a tough, dependable tool. We saw an opportunity to give the design extra tension, and to emphasize Built Ford Tough design elements like the outboard nostrils—all while maintaining the Ranger's excellent aerodynamic characteristics." - Dave Dewitt, exterior design manager, Ford Asia Pacific



(from left) David Dewitt, exterior design manager, Ford Asia Pacific; Matt Bradley, president of Ford ASEAN, and Brett Wheatley, vice president of marketing, sales, and service, Ford Asia Pacific.

Three engines—two diesel and one petrol—will power the new Ranger: a 3.2-liter Duratorq diesel engine that produces 200Ps and 470Nm of torque; a 2.2-liter Duratorq diesel engine with two states of tune—the standard tune that outs 160Ps and 385 Nm of torque, and a high-efficiency version that produces 130Ps and 330 Nm of torque and improved fuel economy of up to 20 percent; and finally, a 2.5-liter Duratec gasoline-powered engine that outs 166Ps of power and 225Nm of torque.

The Ranger is currently available in over 180 markets being served by three of Ford's major production hubs in Thailand, South Africa, and Argentina. In 2014 alone, it sold over 50,000 units in the ASEAN region, making it the best-selling truck in many markets, including the Philippines—which experienced a banner year in terms of sales volume. With the regional success of the Ranger, production has been increased in the Rayong plant to match supply with demand.

Ford officials could not comment on final specs and pricing for specific countries, but instead focused on the global design and key features and technologies that they would be bringing to market. Final specifications are usually only revealed during the local launches—which if we heard right, will be sometime mid year, with deliveries pegged by Q3.



Rolls-Royce executives reveal details on new marque

Revealed in an open letter signed by Rolls-Royce chairman Peter Schwarzenbauer and chief executive officer Torsten Mueller-Oetvoes were details regarding an all-new Rolls-Royce vehicle still in development.

The two described the new model as a high-bodied car with an aluminum architecture, enabling the Rolls-Royce to look luxurious while travelling across any terrain.

"Many of our discerning customers have urged us to develop this new car—and we have listened. At Rolls-Royce Motor Cars we are uniquely focused on the desires of our customers and are driven by our own thirst to innovate. So we challenged our engineers and design team, led by director of design Giles Taylor, to create a different and exceptional new car," the two executives wrote. Rolls-Royce's automotive renaissance started with the Phantom in 2003. Since then, the company has been raising the bar for what a super-luxury

car should be—elegant, unique, hand-crafted, and rare. The Ghost and Wraith followed, and this time, the company is looking to add unmatched functionality to their arsenal of vehicle characteristics in the hopes of creating a "unique new motor car worthy of carrying the Spirit of Ecstasy into the future".

"This new journey begins now. We will take our time in developing and perfecting this new concept in luxury. We will include our customers, enthusiasts and media along the way and will keep you informed of our progress. Until then, rest assured, we are creating a motor car in the greatest traditions of our marque," added Schwarzenbauer and Oetvoes.

Sir Henry Royce famously said: "When it does not exist, design it". The car maker's current leaders are following their founder's words as they continue their tradition of being a leading British automotive manufacturer.



In a world where modern sedans look as if they're all manufactured in a single workshop, Volvo offers a fresh change in the S60 R-Design. The new Volvo S-60 R-Design received a facelift and now sports an impeccably detailed exterior and interior that will have cars honk in approval.

Up-front is a black high-gloss grille that comes with LED daytime running lights, intelligent cornering lights, and an active high beam that accentuates Volvo's ironmark. At the back are sporty dual pipes. Driver support features include rear park sensors and camera for easier maneuvers in tight parking spaces. Eighteen-inch R-Design wheels carry this sedan in style.

The upgraded Volvo S-60 R-Design adopts a four-cylinder turbocharged 2.0-liter diesel engine mated to an 8-speed Geartronic transmission.

Steering wheel-mounted paddle shifters, an adaptive digital display, and Volvo's Sensus Infotainment system provide absolute control and ease while driving. The energy-efficient Auto Start/Stop system turns off the engine when you're stuck in traffic.

For driver and passenger convenience, the S60 R-Design is furnished with allergy-tested interiors and comfortable seats.

Volvo S60 R-Design



BYD showcases e6 electric vehicle at 2015 Electric Vehicle Summit

BYD Auto China Ltd. Co's official local distributor, Solar Transport Automotive Resources Corp. (STAR Corp.), exhibited the e6 long-range pure-electric utility vehicle as one of the sponsors of the 4th Electric Vehicle Summit held last February 26 and 27 at the Meralco Fitness Center, Pasig City. Organized by the Electric Vehicles Association of the Philippines (EVAP), the summit is an annual showcase of eco-friendly and sustainable e-vehicles from various importers and distributors.

The e6 SUV-sedan crossover boasts of a powerful 75kW motor powered by BYD's proprietary Iron Phosphate (Fe) Battery—a fire-safe and recyclable energy source capable of travelling as far as 300km in urban conditions on just one full charge. The power plant pulls with 450Nm of force and can rev the e6 from zero to 60kph in just 7.69 seconds up to a maximum 140kph.

In addition to one of the longest travel ranges for an electric vehicle, the BYD e6 features other practical advantages, including zero emissions and low noise when running; fast, two hour optimized charging; low operational costs; exceptional driving performance; and bi-directional charging and discharging.



"Green technology, particularly electric vehicles, is the way of the future. And BYD will continue to support the electric vehicle development in the country," said Mark Andrew Tieng, managing director of STAR Corp. "We look forward to the day when eVehicles can occupy a portion of the nation's highways and roadways and a future when green car space is the norm rather than the exception."

According to Rommel Juan, EVAP president, "We would love to believe that the nation has now accepted electric vehicles as a viable alternative mode of transport. We continue sustaining our gains and pretty soon, we can finally lay claim to the title Electric Vehicle Hub of Southeast Asia. Thus, we will push for our campaign for One Million EVs on Philippine roads by 2020."

Chevrolet opens Batangas dealership



The Covenant Car Company Inc. (TCCCI), the official Philippine importer and distributor of Chevrolet vehicles, has inaugurated its latest dealership in Batangas. The city's large population consisting of 2,377,395 residents is expected to give the bowtie brand another significant client base.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by TCCCI's chairman emeritus Richard Lee; president and managing director, Atty. Alberto Arcilla; directors; and key officers. Also present was Gloria Lagdameo from the office of the Vice Mayor, who welcomed Chevrolet to the industrial port city

The newest Chevrolet Philippines hub sits on a 3,500sqm lot capable of holding 6 to 8 car displays, 16 service work bays, 41 parking slots, and a modern customer lounge. It will operate under the management of dealer operator Carlo

Montemayor. His parent company, Juno Cars Inc. has already proven its mettle as it also manages

Chevrolet Alabang, Carmona, Pasig, and Shaw. "We are very pleased with our new venture with Chevrolet. The city of Batangas holds a special place in my heart as it is my maternal family's hometown. We are thankful to TCCCI for giving us the chance to offer excellent cars and share our passion for all things Chevy to our fellow Batangeneños" says Felix Limcaoco III, president of Juno Cars Inc.

Among the offerings of Chevrolet Batangas are the bang-for-your-buck Chevrolet Trailblazer L A/T which comes with seven seats, a powerful 2.8L turbo-diesel-powered engine, and various creature comforts for a PHP 1,398,888 price tag; and the Colorado and Trailblazer which are bundled with a three year warranty plus a two year extended warranty for the power train or 100,000km whichever comes first.

TCCCI's 24th full sales and service Chevrolet branch in the country symbolizes the continued growth of the brand. It has doubled its business network since it began operations in 2009, and is hopeful of having 29 dealerships in operation before the year ends.



The Yamaha XTZ 125 visits the PTT Motocross Challenge



Yamaha Motor Philippines, Inc. hit the dirt as a major sponsor of the 2015 PTT Motocross Challenge at MX Messiah Fairgrounds, Club Manila East Complex, with the XTZ125.

Aside from supporting the event, Yamaha instructors held a program that included a lecture, demonstration, and actual training for off-road riding with the bikes. The lecture served as both an introduction to the history of Motocross and the features of the XTZ125.

The practical physics of braking and correct form while riding and jumping were also demonstrated by the instructors. The session started with basic riding around an oval, followed by a figure-eight obstacle course, and ended with a jump.

The XTZ 125 one-make race, which features the greatest number of participants was the highlight of the event. There were over a thousand attendees, which even had a race for kids.

The event marks the start of Yamaha's Off-Road adventures this 2015, so if you're ready to get a little dirty, stay tuned. There will be more coming from Yamaha.

Yamaha YZONE



Yamaha Motor Philippines, Inc. recently celebrated the 5th anniversary of their flagship store, the YZONE. The event marks not only a milestone for the company, but also a great step forward for Philippine motorcycling. Bridging the gap between Yamaha and the customer, YZONE features an environment where customers can experience a unique retail experience, as well as a place for riders to come together and share their common passion for motorcycles.

On the day itself, Yamaha club members had a special treat in the form of free items, food, and a raffle draw. Some of the items included were exclusive 5th year YZONE anniversary shirts. To showcase the on-going event, there was a motorcade made up of 21 Yamaha Club groups and 82 riders.

After the motorcade, a fashion show was held with models from various Yamaha clubs strutting

outfits from the Yamaha Apparel Collection, and a "Bet ng YZONE" competition where clubs competed for a PHP 10,000 prize and the distinction of being the club with the best talent. The contest was judged by YMPH president, Toru Osugi; sales and marketing director, Kaoru Ogura; after sales director, Yosuke Hayashi; and service section manager, Tomoyoshi Inoue. Vega Force Mantis Riders club took home the win with their scintillating performance.

There was also an award for best in costume, which went to the attendee who showed up in a Predator suit with Yamaha accents. The winner was given the title of "Ang Star ng Yzone" which also came with PHP 2,000 and free items from the event sponsors.

In addition, the winners of the Mio Sporty Graphic Design Contest were in attendance to receive their University-themed motorcycles. Attendees had a handful of activities to enjoy during the day with sponsor booths and raffle draws.



DeLorean DMC-12

Words by Jose Alvarez

The year is 2015. That means our cars should be flying, our shoes should be self-lacing (Nike actually has something in the works as of this writing), our boards should be hovering, and our clothes should dry themselves. While director Robert Zemeckis did predict some of the future in *Back to the Future II*, such as handless/wireless video games (Xbox Kinect, Nintendo Wii), tablets (iPad), our obsession with 3D technology (the abundance of 3DTVs), and video conferencing (Skype and Google Hangouts), the coolest inventions from the movie still have yet to become a reality.



Those who watched the movie should remember Marty McFly and Doc Brown time traveling in a modified DeLorean DMC-12 throughout the series. The car existed in real life and was known for its gull-wing doors, or doors hinged at the roof rather than at the side like most cars are today. While the DeLorean DMC-12 made its way into pop culture history because of its inclusion in the *Back to the Future* film series, the car was not as well-received in the real world.

John DeLorean created the car through his DeLorean Motor Company, which he founded in 1973 after leaving General Motors, and it was also the only model ever produced by the company. While a prototype of the car existed as early as 1976, production officially began on January 21, 1981 in Dunmurry, Belfast, Northern Ireland. Around 9,000 DMC-12s were made before production ceased in 1983. The car initially cost US\$12,000, but people were willing to pay up to USD 25,000 or more for the car (USD 64,852 in 2013 dollars). Italydesign's Giorgetto Giugiaro made the body design, while the engine was a Peugeot-Renault-Volvo (PRV) 2.85 liter V6. The car's unusual design with a rear-mounted engine and unpainted

stainless-steel body panels was how DeLorean intended to sell this new car.

However, the early 1980s United States recession and a lukewarm reception from both critics and consumers doomed the DMC-12. The car wasn't only expensive—it also had lower horsepower compared to other sport coupes, so it was a turn off to auto racing enthusiasts. In fact, the speedometer on the real-life DeLorean DMC-12 only reached 85 miles per hour—short of the required 88 in *Back to the Future* to travel in time.

DeLorean was known for also designing popular and iconic cars while he was at General Motors from 1956 to 1973. These cars included the Pontiac GTO muscle car, Pontiac Firebird, and Pontiac Grand Prix. In 1982, DeLorean was arrested on charges of drug trafficking. To make matters worse, DeLorean's company couldn't recoup its USD 175 million investment in the DMC-12, and it fell into Chapter 11 bankruptcy. DeLorean was found not guilty in 1984, but his reputation was already damaged beyond repair. When asked if he would resume his career in the auto industry, DeLorean said, "Would you

buy a used car from me?" He eventually declared bankruptcy in 1999 and died in 2005.

What happened to all those DMC-12s? Besides its use in the *Back to the Future* film series, they found their way into the hands of car restoration companies, several private individuals, and automobile museums. In 2007, the DeLorean Motor Company of Texas said they would produce a limited number of cars per year, giving the DMC-12 new life. These cars were essentially DeLorean underbodies that were created in the 1980s with new enhancements. DMC Texas also announced that an all-electric version would be available by 2013 at a cost of US\$90,000, although that project seems to be in limbo as of this writing.

Still want to buy a pre-owned DeLorean? You can go to the DeLorean website at **DeLorean.com** and find one for sale—a couple of 1981 models are available for USD 39,000 and USD 54,000 respectively (the USD 54,000 one has only 1,000 miles on it). There are several others for sale but you might need to inquire for prices. If you're into auto collecting, have quite a bit of money, and need one of these in your garage, you can still get your hands on one today.



DRAGONBALL XENOVERSE

Words by Jose Alvarez
Developer: Dimps
Publisher: Bandai Namco Games
Platforms: PC, PlayStation 3,
PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One

The name *Dragon Ball* should resonate in every anime fan's head. Akira Toriyama's creation was one of the main animes that helped give the genre popularity outside of its native Japan. The show reached peak popularity when I was in middle school—fans of the show will remember Goku fighting villains such as Vegeta, Frieza, the Androids, Cell, and Majin Buu in order to save the universe from destruction. While action-oriented, the series also had many elements of comic relief, such as Goku's best friend Krillin, the "World Champion" Mr. Satan, and Goku and Krillin's teacher Master Roshi, who would lighten the mood when the world was in grave danger.

The quest to make a popular video game based on the series has been an endless endeavor—games of every genre have been made to give fans variety—there were RPGs, sidescrollers, fighting games, and even card and puzzle games based on *Dragon Ball*. Although most of the early iterations were only released in Japan, some of the earlier ones that did make their way out of Japan were poorly received. *Ultimate Battle 22* for PlayStation in particular was given a scathing review. The *Budokai Tenkaichi* series redeemed *Dragon Ball* video games and most of them were enjoyable. However, fans wanted more: they wanted immersion in the *Dragon Ball* universe.

Dragon Ball Online (DBO) was released in South Korea, Japan, China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan in 2010 and 2011. I actually found a way to play the game with english text back then, but could only get so far in the game as I couldn't interact with the rest of the players online. *Dragon Ball: Xenoverse* (DBXV) incorporated many elements of DBO and is seen as its successor. You play as your own custom-made character and join the Time Patrol, which is under the leadership of the Supreme Kai of Time, to correct anomalies in the *Dragon Ball* timeline. You can choose from several races: Earthling, Saiyan, Frieza's Race, Majin, and Namekian, each with their own strengths and weaknesses.

Future Trunks, a fan favorite in the series, serves as a narrator and quest giver, and you take on a series of missions to correct anomalies in the timeline.

Toki Toki City serves as the main area for players, but you can revisit areas in the series through missions. Fans of the anime will immediately notice that their custom character is taking part in events that took place in the anime itself—but with certain distortions. The custom character has to help the protagonists correct the anomalies which make the enemies significantly more powerful.

As you defeat enemies in the main quest line or participate in parallel quests (quests that aren't part of *Dragon Ball* canon, but rather theoretical scenarios that you can fight in), your character levels up, and you can distribute points in each of the statistics—health, ki, stamina, basic attack, strike super attacks, and ki blast super attacks. Like most MMOs, you can also equip gear to make you stronger, as well as customize items that you can use in battle, down to the color scheme. You can mix and match gear and items to suit your play style—whether you like getting up close and personal or firing ki blasts from far away, you can chain attacks easily to reach higher combos and put the hurt on your enemies.

You can even ask a character from the series to be your master and you can learn their signature abilities for your own custom character—like Goku's *Kamehameha* or Krillin's *Destructo Disc*. However, these characters appear randomly after completing a certain number of missions, and you should try learning all you can from them before switching masters, as you don't lose any of their

abilities. For those who are into online play, you can play 3v3 local or online tournaments versus each other, or you can take on parallel quests together with your friends.

For those who religiously have watched the show since the beginning, the World Martial Arts Tournament makes a return in the game. The tournament was more prominent in other *Dragon Ball* games (mostly fighting ones) and was a staple of the original series, but not so much in *Dragon Ball Z* or *Grand Tour*. You can face off against other players online, so make sure you have the best equipment available and your favorite moves equipped to your character.

The Player vs. Player (PvP) element of the game seems to be more exciting than the main storyline, and the *Dragon Ball* brand really shines here. The AI companions in the game seem a bit uncooperative—no matter who you pick, they seem to do their own thing instead of helping you win the fight. This becomes more and more frustrating in the later stages of the main storyline.

For me, *Dragon Ball: Xenoverse* was a walk down memory lane—except that I was in control. Countless hours of watching the anime, movies, and TV specials over the years gave rise to the demand from fans to immerse themselves fully in the *Dragon Ball* world. Although it still has some kinks to iron out, it's a very strong first step.



Apps to help pass time on the road

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

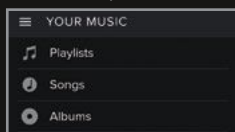
Along with adventure, every roadtrip comes with what seems like endless hours on the road. These commutes and drives can go from hours to even days, depending on where you are headed. You can choose to sleep, or you can annoy your sleeping seatmate, though that runs the risk of you two killing each other. Good news! You can make these dull ticks of the clock thrilling and entertaining with your mobile device, but we bet you already knew that.

We've listed five apps to help make the hours sail by.



1 Spotify Music
(Free; Android, iOS, Windows Phone, Web)

Music never fails to entertain, and that's what you absolutely need while on the way to wherever you're off to. *Spotify* is a music-streaming app that allows you to listen to thousands upon thousands of local and international songs, create playlists, and discover music for free, as long as you have an internet connection. If you know you'll be off the grid for a while, subscribing to its premium service will enable music playback even when you're offline.



2 Tap Titans
(Free; Android, iOS, Windows Phone)

For hands that won't just stay put, you've got *Tap Titans*. Gameplay is simple, you can tap anywhere on the battle area on your screen and your hero will level up. It's that easy. What's entertaining about that, you might ask? Its simple gameplay is exactly what makes this game addicting, and lets it stand out from others. No logic needed, just fast fingers.



3 Kindle
(Free; Android, iOS, Windows Phone)

Books are great travel buddies, however the bulk and weight they add to your already over-stuffed luggage is the last thing you need on a long backpacking trip. This is where Amazon's *Kindle* app comes in handy. You can choose to purchase thousands of e-books, magazines, and whatnot in the *Kindle* store or sync your collected e-books on the app and you're good to go.



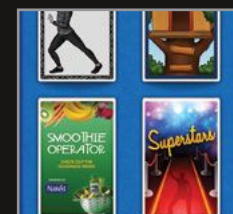
4 Backflip Madness
(PHP 45; Android)

We have all probably dreamt of being a gymnast at one point in our lives, doing a backflip to say the least. Now you can, albeit virtually! Your only goal in the game is to make a backflip. However, this game is kicked up a notch with extreme conditions that'll make every backflip extra challenging.



5 Heads Up!
(Android, Free; iOS, USD 0.99; Windows Phone, Free)

If you're familiar with *Pinoy Henyo*, you can readily play this game. The game is a modern take on the game of charades. To begin, just pick a category, hold your device on your head (facing your friend), and the word you need to guess will appear on the screen.



This is as far as our list goes for apps this month, but do know there's a good number of popular games and long-forgotten titles to discover. Test these apps on the road, they'll be great for filling in those empty hours on long journeys, and you might be surprised at how handy and entertaining you'll find them.

I WANT ONE!

Words by Presy Alba

Watch the 95 minute keynote video of the March 9 Apple Event and you'll wish Christmas was just around the corner—you'll want one of everthing!

For us who are outside of the USA, the first 10 minutes of the presentation about the opening of the Apple Store in West Lake, China and the new Apple TV and its exclusive tie-up at launch of the HBO Now is awe-inspiring and exciting but not really relevant.

But once Tim Cook starts with the new line up of spectacular products Apple has in store for all of us this year, you'll be spellbound: you just know that this is going to be one exciting year for Apple fans.

Even with iPhone 6 and 6 Plus sales through the roof, Apple is not resting on their laurels. iPhone users can expect even more apps that will help them manage their life even more efficiently and keep track of their health.

The MacBook Product Line

I was planning to get a new MacBook Pro with Retina Display this year, but after that stunning presentation of the all-new MacBook, I'm changing my mind. I definitely want the gold MacBook. Not only is it lighter than even the 11-inch MacBook Air, it is even thinner. And it is truly all-new inside and out. It is the first fanless MacBook, they've shrunk the logicboard, and the keyboard is full-sized, with bigger and more stable keys. The keys themselves are all-new with a butterfly mechanism that is more balanced and responsive and are backlit with individual LEDs. The touchpad is more powerful, yet more sensitive and comes with more gestures. What's even more impressive is that even with all the space they saved in shrinking the electronics, they've

The announcement about the ResearchKit and the apps that Apple is developing with top research teams in the USA to help collect and integrate data for people with Parkinsons Disease, Diabetes, Asthma and so many more life-threatening illnesses are not only impressive, but will surely save lives or at the very least allow people to make more intelligent choices about their health. With the ResearchKit made available to developers, we can expect that the services and information we learned to depend upon from the Health app last year, will just grow and expand so that we can keep track of our well-being from our phones.

managed to install terraced batteries and so lengthened the battery life. And even better, the all-new MacBook comes with a Retina Display! It truly is the best MacBook ever—it has everything every MacBook user dreams of: Retina Display, faster processor and memory, long battery life, and it is lightweight and super-thin. It is also the first all-metal MacBook.

I have to say that Apple did not forget the people who need the features of the other more powerful albeit thicker and heavier MacBooks. The rest of the MacBook family gets an upgrade with faster processors and flash memory.



The Apple Watch

Tim Cook really saved the best for last. The Apple Watch is truly drool-worthy. After watching the presentation and demos I want one as well. There are three variants: the classic Apple Watch, Watch Sport, and the Watch Edition. The Apple Watch Sport, made with an aluminum-alloy body and a rubber wrist band, is the least expensive. The classic Watch is made with a stainless steel body and a wide selection of wristbands. The Watch Edition is the most expensive with its pure 18k gold body and an even fancier selection of wristbands.

The look and external design is already impressive but what the Apple Watch can do is what clinches the deal. As Tim Cook said, it is the most personal Apple device you can have: it is not only near you, it is on you.

In addition to connecting with your iPhone and having access to your phone apps, the Apple Watch will keep track of your physical activities and act as your health coach—even reminding you to stand and walk around when it detects that you've been sitting down for a long time.

The apps in the Apple Watch make the Apple experience more personal and even intimate. It will bring back the wristwatch as a must-have gadget, and not just as a fashion statement or accessory that it has become today.





LG Mosquito Away

Ever heard of an Air Conditioner that not only cools, but also keeps you protected from mosquito bites? The revolutionary Mosquito Away Residential Air Conditioner from LG Electronics (RAC) helps the fight against dengue with its built-in technology that repels the notorious bloodsuckers. The Mosquito Away RAC utilizes a speaker that generates ultrasonic waves at a frequency of over 30kHz which is completely harmless to humans and conveniently drives the pesky visitors away from your home. Aside from keeping mosquitoes at bay, the new LG RAC boasts of a low voltage starter. The starter allows the unit to operate at lower voltage in lower temperatures, while its jet cooling feature allows for quick cooling. Now that's putting technology to good use.

Bug-proof your home with Temox

If there's one thing we learned about insects in science, it's that they're vital to the ecosystem. However, we also know that these creatures can be quite nasty roomies. These freeloaders will sneak into your home and terrorize your peaceful abode. To keep your home insect-free, you must keep it clean, though sometimes, that's just not enough. Temox is the answer.

Temox is a multi-insect killer that won't run you out of the home you're trying to protect. It comes in kerosene and water-based variants, both of which carry formulas that effectively kill both flying and crawling insects.

The Temox Chalk Roach and Ant Killer, on the other hand, is specifically formulated to get rid of cockroaches, ants, and other crawling insects, fast. Just draw a line using the chalk in areas frequented by these pesky crawlers, and watch the insect repellent do its wonders.



Proudly Filipino-made, the FDA-approved Temox ascribes to international standards of product safety and environmental protection.

Temox is available at leading supermarkets, hardware, and drugstores in Metro Manila, Metro Cebu, and Metro Davao.

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James Yap
James Yap



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LUZON BRANCHES • FIESTA MARKET, MARKET MARKET • GUAGUA PAMPANGA • MILLE LUCE VILLAGE CENTER, ANTIPOLLO CITY •
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Globe refreshes myBusiness postpaid plans to boost SMEs

Globe Telecom has revamped their myBusiness postpaid offerings in order to kickstart the country's small and medium enterprises. Now more affordable and customizable, the new myBusiness plans offer highly flexible packages bundled with texts, calls, devices, internet connectivity, and now, a free DUO landline and 30-day free website hosting.

Starting at Plan 299 up to Plan 3799, each myBusiness subscription arrives with consumables at least 50 percent more than the monthly service fee. Boosters are also available so businesses can easily find, reach, and interact with their customers, getting that extra push they need to get ahead of the competition.

Added bonuses in the myBusiness packages include: a free DUO service with unlimited calls to local landline and DUO customers nationwide, essentially making a mobile phone a wireless landline; a free 30-day customized webpage trial so clients can easily reach customers; and an Ad Blast service that sends SMS advertisements to Globe subscribers in a certain area or demographic.

Devices available to myBusiness postpaid subscribers include mobiles phones, tablets, and even laptops. Included options are the Lenovo A536 and Lenovo Idea Tab A3300; and an Acer Aspire E11 laptop, Acer Iconia One 7 tablet, and Acer Liquid Z4 smartphone.

"Globe myBusiness continues to be the entrepreneur's trusted partner in providing communication solutions to equip their businesses. With our new customizable postpaid plans, our customers get more value for their money with free services and consumables that are almost double the plan value. We understand that small and medium entrepreneurs need relevant, affordable, and hassle-free solutions that will enable them to run their operations smoothly. Now, customers can get communication concerns out of the way to better focus on more relevant things to grow their business. With Globe myBusiness, we strive to inspire success among Philippine entrepreneurs through innovative communication solutions," says Globe senior vice president for small and medium enterprise group Martha Sazon.



Those interested in getting a myBusiness subscription can visit any Globe Store, go to <http://mybusiness.globe.com.ph/mybusinesspostpaidplan>, or call its dedicated hotlines at (02) 730-1010 in Metro Manila and Luzon, (032) 401-1010 in Visayas and (082) 321-1010 in Mindanao.

Epson receives Thomson Reuters Top 100 Global Innovators Award



Epson was recently presented with the Thomson Reuters Top 100 Global Innovators Award, marking the fourth consecutive time the technology innovator has received the award.

The photo shows Hirofumi Hino (right), senior director, Japan service operations IP & science, Thomson Reuters Professional KK, presenting the award for 2014 to Shigeki Inoue, managing director and general administrative manager of Epson's intellectual property division.

To view the complete list of the 2014 award winners, log on to <http://top100innovators.com/>.

GSMA names SPINNR best music app at the Mobile World Congress

Smart's music streaming service, *SPINNR*, was hailed the "Best Mobile Music App" by GSMA telecoms industry association at the recently concluded Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona, Spain.

The multiplatform app has been commended with "a proven track record in driving subscriptions in the Philippines, thanks to a bite-sized revenue model with carrier billing in a low credit card user base environment."

GSMA's 20th Global Mobile Awards is touted as the "Oscars" of the mobile industry. *SPINNR* bested nominees Samsung's *Milk Music*, Universal Music's *The Kleek*, Bharti Airtel's *Wynk*, and the Radio Sawa app.

SPINNR, which was launched in 2013, is the only music app in the country that combines premium ad-free streaming with song purchases and free radio service, all for as low as PHP 2.50 a day and with no data charges. *SPINNR* allows Smart, Talk 'N

Text, and Sun Cellular subscribers to pay for music downloads or convenient streaming through prepaid load deductions or charging to their postpaid bill.

"We are happy that our homegrown *SPINNR* app has been recognized as the top mobile music app in the world. Just a few years ago, Filipinos were not very familiar about the concept of music streaming. By giving users the total music experience through streaming, exclusive merchandise, and the hottest music events, *SPINNR* has revolutionized the way Filipinos enjoy and experience music through their mobile phones," said Mellissa Limcaoco, head of Smart's innovation and product development group.

SPINNR is free to download on the App Store and Play Store. It can also be accessed on laptops and desktops via www.spinnr.ph. Users can log in using their Smart, Talk 'N Text, or Sun Cellular account or their Facebook account.



Globe gives customers more apps and longer surfing hours

The screenshot shows the Globe Rewards app interface. At the top is a navigation bar with icons for Personal, SME, Enterprise, Help & Support, and My Account. Below this is a 'Rewards' section with a search bar and links to 'My Rewards' and 'Rewards Catalog'. The main content area features a large pink sphere with 'GOSURF 50' written on it. To the right of the sphere, the text reads: 'GOSURF 50', 'Fight away boredom with all-day mobile internet and music! For 3 days, you can surf with 250 MB of mobile internet and listen to up to 400 MB of music from Basic Spotify, for 50 points.', 'Available rewards may change without prior notice.', 'Points Needed: 50 Points', and two buttons: 'Redeem Item' and 'View Other Rewards'.

This summer, stay connected even while you're out on the road, or in the sun. Globe's GoSURF50 gives you 300MB of mobile surfing so you can browse through travel sites, book hotel accommodations, read travel reviews, chat with friends, and share posts and photos on mobile complete with free access to Viber and Facebook. GoSURF50 also comes with free access to Spotify so you can listen to the latest songs, even while you're away from your own music collection. You also get access to the Piso Mall, where you can

watch videos and movie clips to while the time away. You get all this for just PHP 50 for three days.

"As the leading purveyor of the Filipino digital lifestyle, we want our prepaid customers to have more fun this summer so we are boosting our GoSURF promos with more mobile data allocation so they can enjoy their mobile internet experience without spending too much. We also want to give them more of what they love

so we're bundling our GoSURF promos with free premium content such as Facebook, Viber, Spotify and Piso Mall to fully enable their digital lifestyle," says Issa Cabreira, Globe senior vice president for consumer mobile marketing. Register to GoSURF50 by dialing *143# and choosing GoSURF50 or by simply texting GS50 to 8888. Upon successful registration to GoSURF50, you will receive a confirmation SMS with details on the premium content which you can immediately access as part of the bundle.

Microsoft and HP partner up for healthcare professionals

Microsoft and HP announced last month a partnership to help push the pioneer healthcare app in the country. The Creative Care Mobility Initiative, or CARMi, will enable nurses with technology specifically tailored for the local healthcare industry. The solution integrates the use of Office 365, Skype, Microsoft Dynamics Social Media Listening tool, electronic medical records, hospital information system, and learning management system. The app has been designed to work with HP devices, HP Stream 7 and 8, and HP Pavillion X2.

"At Microsoft, we strive to create a lasting impact in the community through our technologies, research and strategic partnerships. Carmi represents this long-standing commitment to transform the local healthcare industry, create healthier communities, and contribute to the economy at large, said Karrie Ilagan, general manager, Microsoft Philippines.

Throughout 2014, Microsoft has been in constant talks with local healthcare organizations to determine their needs, and how to better address them through technology.



Asiasoft brings PlayPark to PH



Asiasoft has just announced the availability of the premier gaming portal, PlayPark, in the Philippines.

PlayPark, formerly known as Playweb Games, hosts a wide collection of popular online gaming titles in the country, some of which are internationally acclaimed games: Blizzard's *Heroes of the Storm*; the action RPG *Phantasy Star Online 2*; the superhero MMORPG *DC Universe Online*; and the multiplayer battle arena game *STRIFE*—with more titles to be added in the future.

Playpark is also home to a growing mobile game roster. It boasts of mobile games like *Advance Dino*, *HeartCastle*, and *Destiny of Thrones*. Titles will be cross marketed across Level Up! and PlayPark, with all new titles added to the latter.

Also announced during the launch was the availability of *World in Audition* (the long-awaited sequel to *Dance Battle Audition*), *Cabal 2* (the first online game developed using the CryEngine3 graphics engine), and *Special Force 2* (the sequel to SF that features extensive

weapon customization) in PlayPark's roster of varied and exciting gaming titles.

"The Playpark Launch event is a great opportunity for everyone to experience the fun philosophy that Playpark represents," said Jake San Diego, general manager of Playpark. "We've got the most-anticipated online games under our belt, and we're bringing in even more games down the road, so we're excited to see what the future holds for online gaming in the Philippines now that Playpark is here and here to stay."

PortfolioMNL.com announces Network Portals with 17 academic institutions



PortfolioMNL.com, the country's first digital portfolio catalogue made by creatives for creatives, has launched its Network Portals service, revealing the dedicated portals of 17 academic partners and creative organizations throughout the country.

One of the first startups incubated and accelerated by the IdeaSpace Foundation, PortfolioMNL.com seeks to uplift the Philippines' creative industry by linking the country's artists to prime opportunities and careers.

The company's ultimate goal, according to Rina Malonzo, a former New York-based creative

director and now its co-founder and CEO, is to take the Philippines from number 18 in creative outputs (out of the 24 economies surveyed by the Asian Development Bank) to number 1.

"Filipino creative professionals are recognized and sought throughout the world for their talent and innovation, specifically in emerging industries such as animation and game design. We are thrilled to launch our Network with creative schools and organizations that are furiously developing world-class creative talent. With these partnerships, we look forward to doing our part in empowering creative innovation on a national and global scale," said Malonzo.

The new NetworkPortals serve to give PortfolioMNL.com's partners crucial leads to careers in just a few clicks. "Our Network Portals tear down the logistical barriers to discovering untapped creative talent, providing growth opportunities for both creatives and the companies that hire them," explained Malonzo.

The digital career marketplace currently hosts thousands of multimedia work samples (photos, videos, and music files), and résumés. Those looking to hire a creative can search based on skill, experience level, location, or organization/institution, allowing for a comprehensive assessment of candidates even before meeting them.

Other ways companies can bank on the Network Portals include: discovering talents from schools not usually on the radar; alumni with years of experience can be easily contacted; recruitment is made simpler and less financially taxing; and affiliated organizations allow headhunters to easily reach licensed creatives.

Over 2,500 members have joined PortfolioMNL.com's community since its 2013 launch. Most of these aspiring interns, freelancers, and full-timers are app developers, architects, editors, cinematographers, fashion designers, furniture designers, game designers, graphic designers, illustrators, industrial designers, photographers, stylists, video editors, writers, and programmers.

Chevron-donated computers bolster police e-blotter system in Batangas

The municipal police in San Pascual, Batangas has successfully upgraded its e-blotter system with the help of Chevron Philippines Inc. (CPI).

With the addition of CPI's donated computer units and peripherals, police officers in the municipality are now able to seamlessly document and access crime reports.

"We used to store all subpoenas, warrant files, rogues gallery, and blotter records in just one computer. Thanks to Chevron, and the computers donated, we can now store more files and transmit reports to our headquarters faster," said Manuel Maligaya, police senior inspector, San Pascual municipal police.

The e-blotter system is part of the improved Crime Incident Reporting System (CIRS) of the Philippine National Police.



Petron Lakbay Alalay: Kasama mo sa biyahe for 30 years



With domestic tourism on the rise, more and more Filipino families are taking holiday road trips all over the country. Now celebrating its 30th year, Petron Lakbay Alalay, the country's longest running motorist assistance program, has developed into a year-round road safety program and customer service advocacy to ensure safer, worry-free travel for everyone.

Marking its 30th year milestone as the country's pioneer motorist assistance program, Petron employees will launch the Lakbay Alalay Volunteerism campaign on March 26 & 27, 2015. On-site and digital initiatives will also be undertaken to engage motorists to pledge for road safety.

For the coming Holy Week break, identified pit stops along the major expressways—NLEX, Lakeshore, SLEX, TPLEX, and STAR Tollway—will offer various activities on April 1 & 2, and April 4 & 5, 2015. The expanded Petron Lakbay Alalay program will include services such as: free safety check for 2-wheel and 4-wheel vehicles; free medical assistance; free 15-minute massage; free food and drinks; a Kiddie Corner; freebies and games from partners; parking assistance; and free Wi-Fi and free cellphone charging area.

The growing number of Petron Lakbay Alalay partners include: Chevrolet, Honda Cars, Honda Motorcycles, Honda Safety Driving Center, Motolite, Globe, Red Cross, Unilab, PhilCare, Purefoods Tender Juicy, San Mig Coffee, Jelly Sip, Pepsi, Magnolia Ice Cream, Polo Mints, Doña Maria, Nissin, Judge Candy, Glade, HBC, Bridgestone, CNN Philippines, and the Bureau of Fire Protection.



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